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Trial of four begins

Defendants plead innocent; women gathering dispersed peacefully

KUWAIT, May 12, (Kuna): A State Security trying four defendants accused of provocation to overthrow the ruling system, possession of explosives, fire-arms, forgery and smuggling today began an open procedural session.



The defendants being taken to the state security court on the first day of their trial.

The defendants are: Sayed Mohamed Baqir Sayed Abbas Al Mosawi (nicknamed Al Muhri), Faisal Abdel Hadi Haji Al Mhaimed, Walid Majid Sayed Ridha Salih Al Mazedi and Abdel Hameed Abdel Karim Al Saffar.

The four were indicted on ten counts of plotting to undermine the basic system by illegal means and forcefully attack the social and economic systems existing in Kuwait. The indictment said in 1986 the defendants had taken part in outlawed groups, organised and incited others to join those banned groups, publicly instigated others to

topple the existing regime in the country and used explosives with the aim of subversion, killing people and spreading panic.

The four were also charged with premeditated murder for killing of unspecified number of people and planning to blow up the headquarters of the Kuwait Airways Corporation in the same year.

Justice Al Banai appointed a council of defence comprising four lawyers to defend the accused. Al Banai adjourned the session for some time to consider a motion by the defence council for an open trial. He over-ruled the motion but said two representatives from Amnesty International are allowed to attend the trial.

Hani Majali and Hanis Al Muhi from Amnesty were present at the opening session.

A group of 20 women gathered outside the court demanding the release of the defendants but they were dispersed peacefully by security authorities.

The four defendants refused the charges and pleaded innocent. After reading the charges tabled against them, the judge asked them one by one about what they say and all stressed they were innocent.

After the prosecutor read the charges he demanded the session be held behind closed doors. But the lawyers appointed by the court to defend the accused refused and demanded it continue public.

The presiding judge agreed and asked the defendants about their opinions in the charges.

The lawyers also raised the issue that the imprisonment of the defendants was unlawful. The defendants have been under precautionary imprisonment pending trial over the past 4 months. They demanded the court to temporarily release them on bail as all the defendants are Kuwaitis and their addresses are well known.

The session was then adjourned for 15 minutes and the tribunal discussed the demands of both defence and prosecution. But when it was resumed, the judge declared a closed doors session and asked the audience to leave. Only the defendants, their defence and two representatives from the Amnesty International (both Arabs) were allowed to attend.

Among those who were allowed to attend the closed doors session, was the Bahrain ambassador to Kuwait.

A large crowd was allowed to attend the first part of the session. They included the families and supporters of the four defendants. Waleed Majid Al Mazedi, the third accused, is the youngest of all four. He is only 22 years old and is a student at the Political Science Department of Kuwait University. The four defendants looked in good shape and put on new dresses.

Amnesty International, the world organisation which monitors human rights violations, had earlier requested permission to attend part of the trial and was told then its representatives would be welcome here.

An official source of the Kuwaiti committee entrusted with the Amnesty affairs said the AI representatives who attended the opening session of the trial earlier in the day will also be meeting some ministry officials for whatever queries they have.

Wife of Hoss dies

BEIRUT, May 12, (AP): Leila Pharaon, the wife of Prime Minister Salim Hoss, died of cancer at the American University Hospital today. She was 57.

The premier's office said Mrs Hoss had been admitted to hospital on Thursday. A source at the office said she had cancer, but would not provide other details.

Crude bomb caused jet blast

MANILA, May 12, (UPI): Workers combing the wreckage of a Philippines Airlines jet determined today that a crude bomb may have caused the explosion and fire that killed eight of 119 people aboard the craft as it prepared for takeoff.

Senior airline officials said the blast took place under a seat in the midsection of the Boeing 737 jet while a tow truck was pulling it to a runway at the Manila airport in preparation for takeoff yesterday. The plane was a domestic flight bound for the central city of Iloilo.

Galileo Banquet, aviation safety division chief, said the initial investigation of the aircraft wreckage showed the explosion was caused by a "crude incendiary device." No shrapnel were reported found.

"The explosion was weak, it did not even shatter the windows. If it were strong, the roof would have been blown off. The damage to the upper section was caused by the fire," Banquet said.

Officials said the plane, acquired only in October, was



Baby saint

An eight-year-old boy in Bangladesh, Shah Ali Shah, has a fully developed head and bushy hair all over his body. The boy's parents declared him a 'baby saint' and collect money from the thousands of visitors who seek his blessings. (Reuter wirephoto)

Fierce fighting in east Beirut

10 killed, 41 injured

BEIRUT, May 12, (AP): Rival Christian forces fought tank and artillery battles in east Beirut and the surrounding Christian hinterland today, killing 10 people and wounding 41, police said.

Several artillery rounds strayed from the embankment and crashed in west Beirut and the Shiite Muslim southern slums. Two people were killed and 10, including two children, were wounded in the Muslim region.

Today's casualties raised the overall toll to 940 killed and 2,606 wounded in the battle for mastery of the 310 square mile (800 square km) Christian enclave, which erupted Jan 30.

Four ceasefire calls by a three-man mediation committee went unheeded as the combatants blasted residential areas and mountain resorts.

Fires blazed out of control in apartment buildings in east Beirut's neighbourhoods of Ashrafieh and Baabda, in villages in the highlands of Kesrouan and pine-woods of the Metn mountains, northeast of the capital.

Radio stations broadcast urgent appeals for civil defence workers to put out the fires and evacuate the wounded to hospitals. But the intensity of the shelling hampered the rescue efforts.

The hostilities kept all roads blocked for a fifth straight day between the Aoun-controlled Metn province and the rest of the enclave, held by Geagen's Lebanese Forces militia.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing regulations, said troops loyal to Aoun fired a dozen Howitzer shells at the ports of Beirut, Jounieh and Byblos.

Geagen's Lebanese Forces control the three harbours and most of the enclave's 28-mile (45-km) coast.

Aoun on Wednesday proclaimed the coast north of Beirut off limits for international shipping in an attempt to clamp a sea blockade on Geagen's 6,000-strong militia.

Both sides have been reported running low on ammunition.

The confrontation has wreaked a heavier destruction on the Christian heartland than the 15 years of civil war with the Muslims.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has estimated material damage caused by waves of sustained shelling duels in the enclave at over \$1 billion.

Police say more than 400,000 of the enclave's 1 million population have fled and sought shelter in Muslim areas or abroad.

The American Ambassador to Lebanon John McCarthy disclosed yesterday that the US has received information that Syria and some of the forces allied to it in Lebanon were actually supplying Aoun with arms, ammunition and fuel supplies and in the process were keeping him in power.

Princess Beatrice, 21-month-old daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York takes walk at the Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Princess Beatrice

DAY BY DAY

IN national issues, there should be no hesitation, however, we should not at the same time put one foot here and the other there — this is tantamount to political hypocrisy.

We are not watching a wrestling match awaiting to clap for the winner.

There are some sections who believe they are "hood-winking" people when they say that for the sake of Kuwait we are with you sailing in the same ship, but when it is decision time, we find them procrastinating to see who is the winner — as if they have become deaf.

Zahed Matar

Bhutto to visit Islamic nations

ISLAMABAD, May 12, (Agencies): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will visit 12 Islamic nations during the next month to discuss ways of averting war between Pakistan and India over the disputed region of Kashmir, the government announced today.

Since we have seen repeatedly in the last four and a half months that the processes for peace in Kashmir prescribed by the United Nations are not being put into operation, naturally this is the time to consult one's friends," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told newsmen.

Relations between India and Pakistan have nosedived since mid-January, when an uprising broke out against Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir state. Islamabad morally supports the movement but has denied India charges it is training and arming the militants.

The spokesman said that "mindful of... above all the necessity to discuss the Kashmir question with leaders of the Islamic states," Benazir would visit at least 12 Muslim countries.

He said the 36-year-old prime minister would leave on Tuesday on a "nine-day trip to Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, North Yemen, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. The prime minister also hopes to visit Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain in the first week of June, the spokesman said.

He said discussions are also under way for Benazir to travel to some other Islamic nations.

"There is a time-honoured tradition in the Islamic world to address problems and issues of common concern in mutual and collective consultations," the spokesman said.

"The Islamic world is beset with a host of problems at the moment," he said. "The harrowing sufferings of the people of Kashmir, whose only sin is to ask for the right of self-determination pledged to them by the United Nations, India and Pakistan, is a case in point. For upholding this right Pakistan is being threatened with war."

Cyclone kills 322 in India

HYDERABAD, May 12, (AP): A powerful cyclone that ravaged India's southern districts for three days has left 322 people and 90,000 farm animals dead and flooded thousands of villages, officials said today.

They said Air Force and Navy helicopters were rushing food and water to tens of thousands of marooned people in villages in Andhra Pradesh state.

Earlier Report Page 2

'Polls constitutional' Candidates Speak

10 out on bail

KUWAIT, May 12, (Agencies): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah today said that elections for the Interim National Council were "100 per cent constitutional."

The election was called by HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah who dissolved Kuwait's elected Parliament in 1986.

"The Amir decree is 100 per cent constitutional," Kuwait's news agency Kuna quoted Sheikh Sabah as saying.

"The great number of candidates is a clear proof of the citizens' compliance with the Amir's call for establishing the four-year council," he said.

More than 560 candidates have registered to run for the 50 elected seats in the 75-seat assembly.

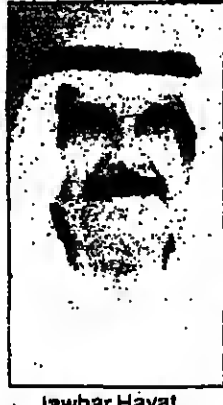
Kuwait today released on bail, Dr Ahmed Al Khatib and 9 others arrested for holding an illegal meeting.

They were all released on bail and will have to pay various amounts.

■ Diana Abou Haidar and Lima Al Khalafawi of Arah Times said: Ten candidates for the Interim National Council withdrew on Thursday and Saturday from the upcoming elections dropping the total number of hopefuls to 557.

The ten candidates are: Ahmed Thumayan Al Mishari - from Faiha; Moutaq Abdul Mohsen Al Jabri - from Khalait; Mohamed Ghaim Al Azami - from Farwaniya; Jaber Abdullah Al Kraihani from Ahmadi; Mirsad Abdulla Al Ajmi - from Riqqa.

(Continued on Page 10)



Jawhar Hayat

Khalil Jawhar Hayat, running for Qadisiya is hoping that the Interim National Council will succeed in creating better basis for democratic practices than those of the dissolved National Assembly. "Deputies should not be allowed to act according to their own whims and wishes because they have immunity," he said.

The 44-year-old merchant expects a steady increase in the number of voters after assertions from HH the Amir and the interior minister that the council is not a substitute for the National Assembly.

"My campaign will concentrate on convincing people to take part in the upcoming elections. I believe that voting is a required national duty."

Moscow considering PLO request Emigrants return

AMMAN, May 12, (Reuters): A Soviet envoy said today Moscow was considering a request by the PLO that Jewish emigrants be allowed to return if they do not like their new home in Israel.

Soviet Foreign Ministry official Egor Andropov, in Jordan on a regional tour, said in an interview with the state-run news agency Petra.

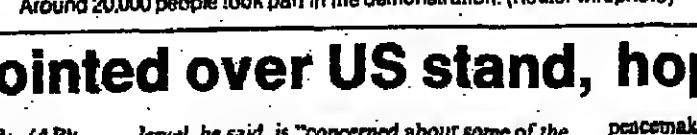
"We are considering a demand by the Palestine Liberation Organisation to allow the Soviet Jewish emigrant keep his passport so that he can come back at any time."

"The Soviet Supreme Council is considering the possibility of granting all Soviet emigrants, including those who go to Israel, the right to return to their homeland," he said.

The PLO fears up to one million Soviet Jews will go to Israel over the next six years, forcing an exodus of Palestinians across the River Jordan. Israel says 33,000 Soviet Jews arrived in the first four months of the year.

Andropov said settling the Soviet Jews in Israeli-occupied territory was "a flagrant violation of Palestinian human rights and a violation of international law."

At the request of the PLO, an Arab summit will convene in Baghdad later this month to discuss the Jewish migration.



March dispersed
A East German policeman wields his baton as police disperse a demonstration against the reunification of the two Germanys in downtown Frankfurt yesterday. Around 20,000 people took part in the demonstration. (Reuter wirephoto)

Thatcher eyes on 4th term

ABERDEEN, May 12, (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, fighting to regain lost popularity, vowed today to remain leader of the Conservative Party and predicted victory in the next election.

"There's a lot more to do — a woman's work is never done," she told flag-waving members of the Scottish Conservative Party. "Radical policies have helped us to win three general elections. And they will win us a fourth."

The next election must be held by mid-1992.

Thatcher signalled her belief that the tide of public opinion, which had seen the Conservatives trailing the opposition Labour Party by more than 20 points, was turning.

In the latest opinion polls, Labour's lead has been cut to between 11 and 15 per cent. Although the Conservatives lost this month's local elections, the margin was not as large as forecast.

Tory popularity has been hit by high interest rates, rising inflation — which hit an eight-year high of 9.4 per cent in April — and the unpopular new poll tax, a local government tax paid by all adults. It replaced property taxes that were paid only by homeowners.

The prime minister's assertion of her intention to lead the Conservatives into the next election came two days after former defence secretary Michael Heseltine, regarded as her main rival for the party leadership, criticised the poll tax.

Israel disappointed over US stand, hopes for a veto

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 12, (AP): Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said today that US co-operation with Arabs in drafting an anti-Israeli UN resolution was "a source of disappointment" for the Jewish state.

Arens expressed hope that the United States, in the end, would not approve the draft of the resolution opposing the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, or would veto it during the planned UN Security Council vote.

Israel, he said, is "concerned about some of the preparations for presenting a resolution at the UN Security Council."

For several weeks, the 15-member council has been negotiating the draft resolution, which also endorses the right of Palestinian exiles to return to their homeland and calls Israel's settlements in the occupied territories illegal.

The United States views settlement in the disputed areas as an obstacle to Middle East

peacemaking, but reportedly seeks to water down the resolution, rejects the term "illegal" and does not see the settlements as a threat to regional peace.

"We were surprised and disappointed to see that the American delegate at the UN Security Council had been working together with none other than the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen, the country which I believe until recently was on the State Department's list of countries engaged in terrorism," Arens said.

Ten killed in Punjab Sikh attacks

NEW DELHI, May 12 (Reuters): Ten people were killed, including four shot dead when Sikh militants attacked a Hindu village in fighting in the north Indian state of Punjab, local news agencies reported today.

The militants, fighting for a separate homeland called

Khalsistan, raided the village of Jaslan in Jalandhar district, killing four people and wounding five at a religious ceremony. Security forces returned fire, killing two militants, the agencies said.

Indian cyclone toll rises to 308

HYDERABAD, India, May 12 (Agencies): More than 300 people have been killed and crops worth five billion rupees (\$300 million) destroyed by a cyclone that ravaged Andhra Pradesh state in southern India, officials said today.

At least 308 people have been reported dead since the powerful cyclone, with winds of 240 kph (145 mph), slammed into the mouth of the Krishna river on Wednesday and flattened nearly everything in its path, state officials said.

Crop losses in rich farmlands producing rice, sugar cane and fruit have been estimated at about \$300 million, Agriculture Minister Channa Reddy said today.

Prime Minister V.P. Singh flew over the area, encompassing more than six million people in 3,000 villages, by helicopter today and afterwards called the damage "extensive and immense".

"Many villages are surrounded by water, roads all over inundated, telecommunications and power installations damaged... sea water entered several villages forcing officials to air drop drinking water," Singh said.

The Indian government made available 340 million rupees (\$20 million) for immediate aid.

The death toll was expected to rise as rescuers found more bodies in the rubble of collapsed houses, officials at the cyclone control centre in Hyderabad said today.

State Relief Commissioner Arjuna Rao said late yesterday that 2.6 million people, including 400,000 evacuees, were either temporarily homeless or in need of relief supplies. He said the state had set up 550 relief camps.

Tidal waves hit a 100 km (60 mile) stretch of the southeastern coast and penetrated 15 km (nine miles) inland, causing heavy flooding.

At least 10 helicopters began dropping food and water today to villages marooned by floods or cut off by fallen trees and power lines blocking roads.

Rao said helicopters had made three unsuccessful attempts to reach disaster areas yesterday but were turned back because of strong winds and heavy rain.

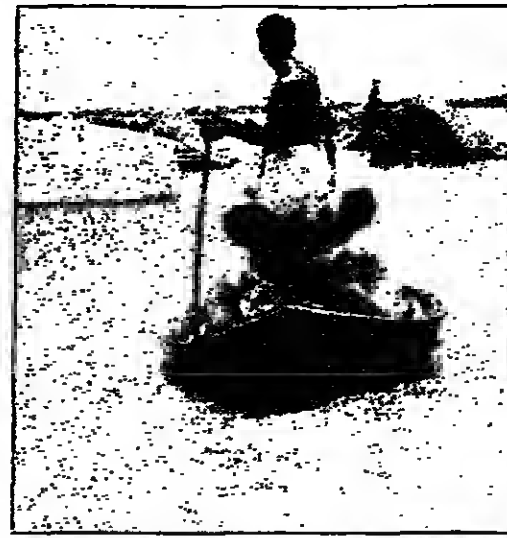
The carcasses of tens of thousands of animals killed in the storm pose a serious health hazard, he said.

The region's rice crop had been harvested but much of it was stacked in fields when the storm hit. Many food warehouses have been flattened by winds or swept away by floods, officials said.

The cyclone has weakened to a tropical depression and was hovering over central Andhra Pradesh today, the National Meteorological Office said.

Bus crash kills 18

ISLAMABAD, May 12 (Reuters): A bus packed with wedding party guests plunged into a 1,500-foot (500 metre) deep ravine near the northern Pakistani town of Abbottabad yesterday, killing 18 of them and injuring 49, the official APP news agency reported.



A rescue boat evacuating victims of the cyclone storm in Eluru town in Andhra Pradesh (Reuters wirephoto)



People wander among fallen power lines and collapsed homes on the outskirts of Vijayawada town of Andhra Pradesh (Reuters wirephoto)

Rebels demand withdrawal

Foreign bases violate Philippine sovereignty

MANILA, May 12 (Agencies): A shadowy group of army rebels demanded today the closure of US bases in the Philippines, where sentiment against the facilities is rising.

A three-page letter addressed to US President George Bush was issued two days before talks open on the future of Clark Air base and Subic naval station, the largest overseas American military bases.

The letter was signed by Carlos Magalang of the Young Officers Union (YOU) and six other people who form the so-called Democratic

Front for Filipinism.

"The continued existence of foreign military bases or facilities violates Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity," it said.

US F-14 fighter jets helped save President Corason Aquino's government during a coup attempt last December, the sixth and most serious against her, by flying air cover against rebel forces.

Military officials believe members of YOU come mostly from younger officers below the rank of major in the Philippine military.

Bush names Armitage to lead team

Talks begin on Monday

WASHINGTON, May 12 (Reuters): Talks begin on Monday on the future of US bases in the Philippines against a backdrop of political, economic and military changes that could make them relics of the cold war.

The talks in Manila will determine whether two countries will go on to negotiate a new treaty allowing continued US presence at Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Base, two of America's biggest military installations.

Experts agree a US presence is needed on the Pacific Rim to support Asian stability. But, citing deep Pentagon budget cuts, improved US-Soviet relations and a wave of Philippine nationalism, many wonder if Clark and Subic will remain the hub of that presence.

"There is a rising nationalism on their part and a realisation on our part that this is a horribly expensive way to do business," said Don Snider, a specialist at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

He and others agreed that many US Navy and Air Force operations could be shifted to other bases in the region, including Guam and Japan, and that Washington might establish facilities in Singapore and Australia.

Both sides have staked out tough positions, with Washington warning that it will move the bases if necessary.

Philippine President Corason Aquino, who has survived six coup attempts by right-wing army rebels and is fighting communist rebels and Muslim

separatists, say the bases will go unless a deal is reached before the current lease expires in September 1991.

"There is no military justification for us to stay there," said retired Rear Admiral Gene Laroque, who heads the Centre for Defence Information, a group of retired military officers.

President George Bush recently named former assistant defence secretary Richard Armitage to head the US negotiating team. Experts say the Philippines are likely to be tough negotiators, at the least seeking greater compensation and joint use of the bases that could eventually lead to a complete takeover.

Analysts point to a key factor as the talks begin: Filipino resentment of a very visible US presence in the former American colony, including feelings that Washington propped up the dictatorship of former president Ferdinand Marcos.

Aquino herself is walking a tightrope at home. The latest coup attempt took place in December and the United States provided air cover for loyalist troops although US jets fired no shots.

The State Department says the bases represent a major part of the Philippine economy, providing jobs for 78,000 Filipinos and directly accounting for about 2.4 per cent of the country's gross national product.

US ties and economic aid to Manila will likely survive whatever the outcome of the negotiations because Washington wants to show its support for continued democracy there.

Camps operated in Tamil Nadu

COLOMBIA, May 12 (Kuna): Muthivaloe Karunanidhi, chief minister of India's Tamil Nadu state, has blown the lid off about Sri Lankan Tamil militant group camps which operated in that state during the rule of former Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi.

Karunanidhi had told the Tamil Nadu's legislative assembly that there were 30 camps of the Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups in Tamil Nadu during Indira Gandhi's premiership.

Karunanidhi told the assembly, "In the past there were 36 armed camps in the Tamil Nadu state though Indira Gandhi denied their existence."

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8

NEWTON

Pistol-packing landlady battles drugs, foreclosures

ATLANTA, May 12. (AP) Sandra Hartman, a pistol-packing landlady, banged on the open apartment door with her .380-caliber automatic and peered in at the litter of cocaine bags and razors lying among broken toys.

"Maintenance. Anybody here?" she called, crunching broken glass underfoot as she made sure no one was hiding in the apartment.

"Look at this, they've been burning in here," she said, pointing to carpet burns on blackened aluminum cans, more evidence of cocaine use. "But I could fix this place up."

This apartment, real easy — the cabinets are still here and the floor's OK — for about \$3,000.

Gordon Valley is 200 bullet-riddled, low-cost apartments. It's also the newest stop on Mrs Hartman's daily — and nightly — patrols of her 11 low-cost apartment complexes.

Wearing her bulletproof vest, Mrs Hartman evicts drug users and pushers, makes loiterers disperse and punishes litterers. She says it's the only way to keep the "good tenants."

During a visit in December, US Housing

and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp praised Mrs Hartman's anti-drug approach to housing. But she says she will lose all her properties unless someone in the government lends a hand.

In a city where 20 per cent of low-cost housing is substandard and more than 700 people are on the Atlanta housing authority's waiting list for openings Mrs Hartman has a reputation as a firm but just landlady.

"Mrs Hartman, she'll work with you," said Ann Parks, who has lived at Oak Valley Court, a complex that won a federal rental

rehabilitation award, for a year. "I help, though. When they fight out here, I talk to both sides to try to stop it. I say this neighborhood ought to get along together."

Mrs Hartman spends about \$10,000 a month on 24-hour security for the complexes. She has fenced in the largest, overlook Atlanta, where tenants say they now feel secure.

"One time, a lot of young kids would be banging around the corner all day, and you know what they were doing, with their gold chains on and their cars with the gold trim," said Donna Dawson, who has lived at the

complex two years. "Now, the tenants are real proud at how clean it is."

Mrs Hartman doesn't believe she can stop drug trafficking. The traffic from overlook Atlanta simply moved across the street to a convenience store, she says. And one dealer, known to tenants as Frog, has managed to elude her.

"He was hassling me one day," Mrs Dawson said. "He said he was going to shoot me. But he's not as big as he'd like us to think he is." Other dealers repeatedly have threatened her.

Mrs Hartman, 41, bought her first low-cost complex eight years ago. Three years later, she had 1,400 units throughout the city and a five per cent vacancy rate. Drug-related evictions have dropped her occupancy rate to about 30 per cent.

She lost her own home and 122 units to foreclosure this year and hasn't made mortgage payments on some complexes since January. She expects a response on her request for federal aid, including a moratorium on back payments, within the month. Without it, she says she could lose everything.

Solar arrays causing wobble

WASHINGTON, May 12. (AP) Each time the sun comes up or goes down on the Hubble space telescope, the \$1.5 billion instrument wobbles slightly for reasons engineers still don't fully understand.

"It extends for several minutes, 10 or maybe 30 minutes after we come from the dark to the sunlight," Jean Olivier, a top NASA telescope official said yesterday. "It's only in the later two-thirds of the sunlight portion of the orbit that it begins to die down."

The telescope orbits earth every 97 minutes and goes through the dawn-to-dusk cycle nearly 15 times a day. The stabilisation problem, which showed up earlier this week, is one of many headaches that have put setup work on the telescope far behind schedule.

Still, astronomers at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland hope they will see the first photograph from the telescope next Wednesday or Friday.

Olivier said scientists are all but certain that the telescope's solar arrays are causing the wobble. The two arrays, 40 feet by 8 feet (12 metres by 2.4 metres), gather energy from the sun. The energy is converted to electricity to provide power for the telescope.

"What we haven't determined is what is exciting the solar arrays," Olivier said.

Olivier said the astronauts of Shuttle Discovery, who put the telescope into its orbit on April 25, saw a slight twist in one of the arrays — about a 4 inch (10 centimetre) difference between one side and the other. But, Olivier said, it is not known whether that is causing the problem.

"It's not conclusive what that means, it's just an observation the crew made. We're taking it, like everything else, as something to look at," Olivier said.

The telescope also is rolling slightly, but project scientist Ed Weiler said that problem is expected to disappear once the instrument finds star arrangements that match the pattern stored in computers.

The first picture to be taken by the telescope is to have a one-second exposure. The roll is so slight, Weiler said, that an exposure would have to last 10 to 20 minutes before any movement was visible in the resulting photograph.

Five of the Mercury Seven astronauts, America's first and perhaps most beloved space explorers, returned to their history-making roots Friday to help dedicate the astronaut Hall of Fame.

They reminisced about some of the more light-bearded moments of three decades ago, praised those who have followed in their footsteps and stressed the need for science and space education.

Drug lord's cash seized

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, May 12. (AP) FBI agents yesterday seized luxury homes, cars, and boats bought by residents who went on a spending spree after unearthing \$43 million buried on a erupted drug lord's farm, authorities said.

So far the FBI said it has traced \$11 million of the \$43 million in excavated cash. Agents also have confiscated millions of dollars worth of property bought with the treasure in this US commonwealth.

Agents seized the money and property under a federal law that allows the government to take the proceeds of drug trafficking, according to an FBI document filed in US district court in San Juan.

The money was found on the 9.7-acre (4-hectare) farm of alleged cocaine lord Ramon Torres Gonzalez, FBI spokesman Anibal Torres said yesterday.

Ramon Torres Gonzalez is a narcotics importer who has been directly involved for many years in the importation of multi-kilo loads of cocaine between Puerto Rico and the United States, the FBI court document said.

Residents of the area "sneaked" into Torres Gonzalez' farm in early March and took money buried in 22 plastic drums, the document said.

New technique announced

Cancer treatment

TOKYO, May 12. (UPI) A new technique for treating advanced breast cancer in which some bone marrow is removed during exposure to chemotherapy and then replaced has proved successful in more than half the cases, an American cancer researcher announced at a symposium this week on conquering cancer drug resistance.

Dr. Karen Antman, associate professor at the Harvard Medical School, presented figures Friday showing 58 per cent of the women who have had a quart of bone marrow removed, undergone heavy chemotherapy and then had the bone marrow returned have recovered to the point where the cancer can no longer be detected and 32 per cent have showed no evidence of disease during follow-up intervals of 12-42 months.

Her study involved 258 women who were treated in the United States, Japan and Europe. Advanced cases of breast cancer are extremely difficult to treat because the cancer spreads to distant locations and tends to become resistant to drugs normally prescribed, said a summary of Antman's research prepared by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., sponsor of the symposium.

Once the cancer has been documented to have spread, the average survival rate is only about two years, a rate which has not improved substantially in 50 years, the summary said.

Antman said she has found that in the laboratory, the higher the dose of chemotherapy the less likelihood of resistance and the more tumour cells that are killed.

"Whether you can increase the dose and possibly cure patients without harming other organs is still an open question," she said.

High doses of chemotherapy destroys the bone marrow necessary to manufacture life-sustaining blood cells, the summary of her report said.

To overcome the problem, Antman and her colleagues are investigating the use of autologous bone marrow transplants, or using the patient's own bone marrow instead of a donor's, the summary said.

Antman said the higher complete response rate using this treatment is encouraging but more data needs to be collected.

"Our group is concerned about long-term side effects," she said.



Bush speaks

President George Bush tips his hat before speaking to the graduating class at Texas P & I University on Friday, during a busy day in south Texas. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mars trip to cost \$500b: Nasa

WASHINGTON, May 12. (AP) Saying you're going to Mars is one thing. Getting there and paying for it is another thing altogether.

President George Bush, who has spoken before in favour of returning to the moon and going on the Mars, got specific in Texas yesterday and set the deadline for 2019.

That coincides with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (Nasa's) plans, which revolve around setting up a base on the moon in 2004-2010, and on Mars 2016-2020.

Last year, after the President made a moon-Mars proposal, the space agency put the price tag at \$450 billion to \$500 billion for going to the moon and establishing operations there, then sending an expedition to Mars.

The \$152-billion Nasa budget that Bush proposed for the next fiscal year includes nearly \$1 billion for exploration — \$188 million of it for technology and definition studies for an advanced launch system, a probe called lunar orbiter and a satellite called "Lifesar" which studies radiation biology problems.

As the President spoke in Kingsville, Texas, the congressional office of technology assessment issued a report that said transportation needs for Bush's "human exploration initiative" would be substantial.

If the United States wants a permanent lunar base, missions to Mars or a space-based defence system, the report said, it should be prepared to spend \$10 billion to \$20 billion in development costs alone for new launch systems.

"Because the nation cannot afford to invest in all the good ideas proposed for improved or new launch systems, Congress and the administration will have to choose from a wide range of options," the report said. "Some choices must be made in the next two to three years. Others can wait longer."

For the lunar outpost, Nasa estimates it would need a launch vehicle capable of lifting 132,000 pounds (59,875 kilos) — a payload 24.7 feet in diameter and 89 feet long (7.5 metres in diameter and 27 metres long).

For Mars, the rocket would have to carry a 308,000-pound (139,700-kilo) payload. That compares with the 52,000-pound (23,590-kilo) limit of the space shuttle. Even the Soviets' Energia booster, the largest in existence, can lift only 220,000 pounds (99,790 kilos) to low earth orbit.

"The big question is, 'who's going to pay for it and why?'" Pike said. "The reasons he set out for doing Moon and Mars have not really generated the kind of political support for spending a half a trillion dollars on this stuff."

Deadline set to visit Mars

Bush gives no details

KINGSVILLE, Texas, May 12. (UPI) President Bush set a timetable Friday for an American visit to Mars, saying the United States should send astronauts to the red planet within 30 years — by 2019.

But the president provided no details about how such a costly programme would be paid for, when it should begin or whether the United States should work with other nations on such a venture, saying only that "30 years is a long time."

In a speech at commencement ceremonies at Texas A-and-I University, Bush put a timetable for the first time on his previous promise to send astronauts to Mars.

Pointing to the 21st anniversary of the first landing on the moon July 20, 1969, Bush declared: "Thirty years from now I believe man will stand on another planet. I believe that before Apollo celebrates the 50th anniversary of its landing on the moon — the American flag should be planted on Mars."

In a speech last summer marking the 20th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing, Bush outlined an aerospace policy that called for building a permanently manned space station, eventually returning to the moon and then mounting a mission to earth's nearest planetary neighbour.

Nasa's space station, Freedom, plagued by budget shortfalls, soaring price tag and frequent resigns, is scheduled to be built in low Earth orbit starting in late 1995. But until Friday, the Bush administration had not

set any kind of deadline for going beyond Earth orbit.

"Today, we're no longer just asking for the moon. We've been there. We're looking further, to carry the American adventure to wherever opportunity, curiosity and need will take us," Bush said.

In a speech reminiscent of John Kennedy's 1961 pledge to send astronauts to the moon within a single decade, Bush declared: "We stand at a halfway point in our exploration of the immediate solar system. ... thirty years ago, Nasa was founded and the space race began. And 30 years from now, Americans should land on Mars."

Senator John Glenn, Democrat of Ohio and the first American astronaut to orbit earth, said he thinks reaching Mars in 30 years is a reasonable goal, but added, "I hope we would beat that."

"It's going to be very expensive. But once again, if we are getting a research return back on each one of these steps out, which I believe we do get, then it's going to be very worthwhile," Glenn said at a Florida reunion of Mercury 7 astronauts.

John Pike, a space analyst with the Federation of American Scientists in Washington, questioned whether such a goal is politically realistic.

"The big question is, 'who's going to pay for it and why?'" Pike said. "The reasons he set out for doing Moon and Mars have not really generated the kind of political support for spending a half a trillion dollars on this stuff."

Ecologist to back Indians to end destruction of the Amazon by ranchers, developers

IQUITOS, Peru, May 12. (Reuters) Ecologists from nine countries agreed yesterday to endorse the rights of Amazon Indians as part of the struggle to halt devastation of the world's largest rainforest, but stopped short of supporting autonomy for indigenous peoples.

Pledging to support territorial and societal rights of indigenous peoples, ecologists said they had formed an alliance with Indians to end destruction of the Amazon by ranchers and developers.

"We recognise the importance of indigenous peoples' own proposals for the management and con-

servation of the Amazon," said a statement signed by Indian leaders and 30 environmental groups from North America, Europe and Peru.

The statement ended three days of often bitter debate between Indian leaders from five countries and ecologists in this sweltering port on the banks of the Amazon.

Indians had hoped the ecologists from Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and other groups would support their proposal for autonomy over their traditional rainforest homeland, a plan which ecologists said posed thorny political questions.



American director and actor Clint Eastwood seen in this production photo for his film 'White Hunter, Black Heart' shown in competition at the 43rd annual International Film Festival in Cannes on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Film debuts at Cannes

Eastwood speaks out

CANNES, France, May 12. (Reuters) The usually taciturn Clint Eastwood's acting career takes a new, laconic turn in "White Hunter, Black Heart," which received its world premiere in Cannes yesterday.

Eastwood sprang to fame as "Spartan" Westerns and more than a husky "make my day" as detective Dirty Harry.

But he waxed positively wordy in his role as devil-may-care director John Huston, a closely-modelled portrait of the legendary John Huston.

"You can't do this kind of film without being wordy," Eastwood told journalists intrigued by this new departure. "Certainly, it's different to anything else I've played before, though I've played a wide variety of roles in the past."

Eastwood, who has been coming to Cannes for the last three years, both acts and directs in this production. The film is based on a story by screenwriter Peter Viertel, who went to Africa with Huston in the 1950's to shoot the star-studded classic "The African Queen."

But Viertel soon discovered Huston was obsessed with quite another kind of shooting — of an African elephant — a fixation which led Huston virtually to abandon his staff and came close to wrecking the entire project.

"I think this film has a big message about responsibility," said Eastwood. "The character at the end becomes a tragic figure because he has allowed his obsession to kill someone he respected and has lost a bit of himself in the process."

Eastwood depicts Wilson as "a violent man given to violent action" — cruel to those he loves, sarcastic,

unpredictable, but redeemed by his rejection of racism, defence of the underdog, and determination to value art over box office receipts.

"To write a movie you must forget that anyone's ever said anything about you," Eastwood said at one point. "I've approached for or against an ending the public will not like."

By an interesting twist of fate, the jury judging films for the prestigious Golden Palm Award includes Huston's actress daughter, Angelica. She was tacit when quizzed earlier by journalists curious for her views on "White Hunter, Black Heart," saying only that she looked forward to seeing it.

"White Hunter, Black Heart" is regarded as a strong entry among the 19 works competing for the Palm at the 43rd Cannes Film Festival. The 60-year-old director's performance is also being tipped for a possible best actor award.

Although directors, publicity agents, hopeful actors and thousands of journalists have been streaming into the Riviera resort all week for meetings in seaside hotels, the festival only opened officially on Thursday with the screening of Japanese director's Akira Kurosawa's "Dreams."

Anthony Quinn, Lauren Bacall, Martin Sheen and his son Charlie were among the stars who climbed the steps of the festival palace under the photographers' flashes for last night's gala premiere.

There were plenty of cleavages and midriffs on show but French actress Fanny Ardant was judged the best dressed in a glamorous black Yves Saint Laurent gown.

Mom sought for kidnapping

Girl needs heart surgery to survive

CHICAGO, May 12. (AP) A homeless woman whose faith opposes blood transfusions seized her 12-year-old daughter from a hospital where the girl was being treated for heart disease, authorities said.

State officials issued public pleas yesterday to Caroline Winfield, 35, asking her to return her daughter, Kimberly.

The mother, who lost custody of her three children last month because she was homeless, is a Jehovah's Witness and feels a blood transfusion would endanger her daughter's soul, said Dave Schneiderman, a spokesman for the Illinois department of children and family services.

He said the child needed open-heart surgery to survive. "The prognosis is she has any-

where from a week to a month to live without the surgery," he said.

The family services department waited about 34 hours after the disappearance on Thursday to notify the press so the police could check leads on Mrs Winfield's whereabouts. Schneiderman said.

Those leads had been exhausted, he said.

The woman contacted her family about returning the child, but was afraid to do so, her estranged husband, Larry, said yesterday.

"She wanted to return the child but she wanted to do it without getting in trouble," Schneiderman said. "We're not real interested in catching the mother

if she doesn't want to be caught, but we do want the child back so we can save the child's life."

Police obtained an arrest warrant for Caroline Winfield on a charge of child abduction because Kimberly is a ward of the state, said Chicago Police Lieut Edmund Beazley.

The state was named temporary custodian of Kimberly and the two brothers, ages 2 and 8, because Mrs Winfield was unable to care for them, Schneiderman said.

"They were living on the streets without proper housing or any evident means of support," Schneiderman said.

A hospital spokeswoman said Kimberly, who was admitted May 9, was not critically ill.

FAA reassigns security official

WASHINGTON, May 12. (AP) The nation's top aviation security official is being reassigned a few days before a presidential commission releases a report said to be critical of Federal Aviation Administration security measures.

Raymond Salazar's decision to become manager of the agency's Centre for Management Development in Palm Coast, Florida, isn't linked to Tuesday's scheduled release of the report by the aviation security and terrorism commission, FAA chief Bussey said Thursday.

"We needed a good man for the job and we've got one," Bussey said.

But relatives of some of the 270 people killed in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, welcomed Salazar's departure as a sign of aviation security director. They blame Salazar for flaws in security before the Dec 21, 1988, bombing and for what they say are failures to improve more conditions since.

Salazar has directed civil aviation security since 1986.

FAA officials declined to comment on whether the reassignment had anything to do with criticism of Salazar by victim's relatives and members of Congress, including some on the commission.

Salazar didn't immediately return to call seeking comment.

The seven-member commission, headed by former Labour Secretary Ann McLaughlin, will present its report on the Flight 103 bombing and other aviation terrorism issues to President George Bush on Tuesday.

The commission report will be "pretty hard on the FAA" and will call for some reorganisation, including setting up a high visibility special security office, according to a congressional source familiar with some of its recommendations. The source spoke on condition of anonymity.

Commission spokesman Patricia Moran said panel members have agreed not to reveal contents of the report until after they present it to the President and victims' relatives.

Paul Hudson of Albany, New York, who speaks for one group of Flight 103 relatives, said the FAA removal of Salazar was long overdue.

"He's totally tied to the blunders made prior to 103," Hudson said. "His leadership clearly has not been effective in eliminating the security gap."

Bolts fraud

VSI Corp. agrees to pay \$18m

SEATTLE, Washington, May 12. (AP) The biggest maker of aerospace fasteners pleaded guilty yesterday to conspiracy and agreed to pay \$18 million in fines and costs to settle federal charges that it schemed for 15 years to falsify test reports on parts.

VSI Corp. pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and three counts of mail fraud before US district judge Barbara Rothstein. The pleas were entered by company vice president Donald S. Parker.

Two former managers also pleaded guilty to one count each of conspiracy. Rothstein set sentencing for August.

In a statement before the court hearing, VSI said that as part of the plea agreement it agreed to pay a \$2.5 million fine and pay the government an estimated \$1 million for the costs of the investigation.

To resolve a separate civil case, VSI will make an additional payment of \$14.5 million, part of which the government will distribute among three former VSI employees who initiated the investigation.

On Wednesday, the federal government filed its complaint claiming VSI and the two managers of the test-falsifying scheme, which featured a phantom "Inspector 11."

VSI, a Fairchild Industries Inc. subsidiary, was accused of skimming on tests and inspections, sometimes even delivering substandard parts to boost profits.

Ben W. Prescott, president of Fairchild Fastener Group, said in a news release, "We can assure the public that air safety was not jeopardized at any time as a result of testing discrepancies."



'Dreams' director

Japanese director Akira Kurosawa waves to photographers as he arrives at the international film festival in Cannes, France, on Thursday. Kurosawa presented the opening film of the festival "Akira Kurosawa's dream" on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

PALM SPRINGS, California: Charles Farrell, who formed one of Hollywood's most romantic screen couples with Janet Gaynor and 20 years later became a television star, has died at 89, friends said on Friday.

They said Farrell, who died of heart failure at his Palm Springs home on Sunday, had asked that his death not be announced until he had been buried beside his wife, actress Virginia Valli.

Massachusetts-born Farrell, who was often mistaken for an Englishman because of his accent, made a number of films with Gaynor, including one of the last big silent film productions, *Seventh Heaven*, in 1927. Known as Hollywood's golden couple, they were among the top ten box office draws for two years, (Reuters)

NEW YORK: Mikhail Raitzin, a Soviet-born tenor who sang with New York's Metropolitan Opera, died on Thursday of heart failure at his home in New York. He was 59.

Raitzin, who lived in New York and Tel Aviv, made his debut with the Metropolitan Opera in 1975 as Dimitri in *Boris Godunov*. He also sang Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Riccardo in *Un Ballo in Maschera* and, in a world-wide broadcast, Enzo Grimaldo in *Puccini's La Gioconda*. (Reuters)

AUSTIN, Texas: Lady Bird Johnson sank city officials' plans to resume Town Lake in the former first lady's honour only hours before the city council was to make it official in a special meeting.

Mayor Lee Cooke proposed the idea during a 25th anniversary celebration of President Johnson's inauguration, and a majority of the council agreed. Cooke said he hadn't expected Lady Bird's veto Tuesday.

Mrs. Johnson, who helped develop and beautify the popular recreation spot 20 years ago, wrote the officials that Town Lake "will always be a special place for me, but I will feel very self-conscious if it is named for me." (AP)

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts: A prisoner assigned to pick up litter along a state highway has lived up to the name.

Hampton county jail spokesman Richard McCarthy said Tuesday that when the inmate discovered a bag discarded along the road containing more than \$1,100 in cash and cheques, he gave it to a corrections officer.

The money and cheques had been stolen in a January 12 break-in from the office for the aging in nearby Westfield.

"We never expected to see any of the money again," said Sgt. Stephen Bosquet, executive director. "That young man should be commended for his honesty." (AP)



Tennis great sings

Argentine tennis great Guillermo Vilas debuts as a singer on Thursday in a Buenos Aires night club, accompanied by his fiancée Michel. Vilas sang at a local recording studio on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)



Losing battle

Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. weighs only 60 pounds and appears to be losing his battle with throat cancer, a close friend said on Friday. He is 64 years old.

Baccarat binge at Trump Casino
High roller loses \$10m

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, May 12, (AP): The group of high-rolling baccarat players who bet \$200,000 a hand at one of billionaire Donald Trump's casinos ended up down about \$10 million after their week-long binge.

Trump said yesterday that Japanese businessman Akio Kashiwagi had been up by nearly 10 million earlier in the week before the cards turned against him and for the casino.

"He was up \$9.6 million and then we had a good run," Trump said in a telephone interview.

Kashiwagi attracted a gathering of amazed small-time players whenever he came down from his 37th floor suite to play \$100,000 a hand while two companions placed \$50,000 bets. Trump said after surrendering early that morning \$10 million in the hole.

"We said, 'forget it, that's enough,'" Trump said. "Frankly, you have to be in the mood."

Kashiwagi sat at the baccarat table Thursday with \$1 million in chips while his companions had \$500,000 apiece. He got up before any of the cards were dealt and did not return.

Trump said he did not know if Kashiwagi would return to play again. In February, Kashiwagi won \$6.2 million from Trump Plaza at baccarat, a high-stakes card game where players seek to bet on the hand that comes closest to totalling nine. Face cards are worth zero.

Trump acknowledged allowing Kashiwagi to play a gamble but said that's part of the casino business.

"It's risky, but I like it," he said.

Lotto jackpot
Mob kin wins

CHICAGO, May 12, (AP): They say that Anthony "Big Tuna" Accardo made part of his fortune from illegal gambling. But his son just became a millionaire on a perfectly legal \$1 bet.

Anthony Ross Accardo stepped forward this week to claim his share of a \$5.9 million Illinois state lottery Lotto jackpot.

The younger Accardo, 54, and his partner, Joseph P. Cohen, 44, held a ticket that won half of the first prize from the April 7 Lotto drawing. The two said they were forming the "AC and A partnership" to receive the payments.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported yesterday that Accardo is the son of "Big Tuna" Accardo, 64.

The younger Accardo, who has no criminal record, is a member of the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union. He said he would use his share of the winnings to take an early retirement.

Jerry Gladden, chief investigator for the Chicago crime commission, described the senior Accardo as "the head, or semiretired head, of organized crime in Chicago."

BATTLE CREEK, Michigan: Some people never throw anything away according to Scott Bruce, who came to this breakfast food mecca looking for old cereal boxes to add to his collection.

"Cereal boxes represent heroes of popular culture - the grain gods, I call them," said Bruce, a Cambridge, Massachusetts, collector who once started a juch-box collecting craze.

"When a kid sits down with a bowl of his favourite cereal, he becomes one with his hero. It's like a secular communion rite."

Bruce, 34, is talking this week with cereal company executives as well as ordinary people who hoard cereal boxes, if there is such a thing.

Rare boxes can fetch up to \$1,000 said Bruce, who began his collection in 1988 and recently published a collector's magazine called *Flake*. (AP)

GENEVA: Switzerland's most prominent animal rights campaigner Friday denounced government plans to allow sales of dog and cat meat as "monstrous and obscene."

Franz Weber, in a column in Lausanne's *Le Matin* newspaper, charged the proposed law endorsed "a kind of cannibalism."

Swiss federal authorities have proposed a sweeping revision of 1954 food regulations that would drop the ban on huchers' selling dog and cat meat. The aim is to bring Swiss law into line with the European Community. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: The late teen rocker Ritchie Valens has been honoured with a posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The Valens star, the 1,913th dedicated along the celebrated walkway, was the first given to a Hispanic rock 'n' roll star.

"Ritchie left a legacy of love," said actor Lee Remick, Phillips, who portrayed Valens in the biographical movie *"La Bamba"*.

Phillips joined members of Valens' family and about 400 fans at Friday's unveiling on Hollywood boulevard. (AP)

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut: Architect Maya Ying Lin, who designed the Vietnam veterans memorial in Washington, DC, when she was a Yale student has returned to her alma mater to mark the arrival of women undergraduates 20 years ago.

Yale has commissioned Lin to design a sculpture to celebrate new generations of Yale women on campus, culminating a yearlong observance of the 20th anniversary.

The monument "is more about the future than commemorating the past," Lin said Tuesday, and likely will include places where "people can sit and enjoy themselves." She would not discuss possible designs. (AP)

Liz develops new ailment
Remains hospitalised

SANTA MONICA, California, May 12, (UPI): Elizabeth Taylor, still recovering from a near-fatal bout of viral pneumonia, has now contracted bacterial pneumonia and will remain hospitalised at least six more weeks, her doctor said yesterday.

A yeast infection also has entered her bloodstream, but despite the setback, Taylor's "spins are good," said St John's Medical Centre spokeswoman Paulette Weir.

"The bacterial pneumonia very often follows the viral pneumonia. She's progressing well and we're quite optimistic," Weir said.

A close family member who asked not to be named said the actress was "disappointed" that she would have to stay in the hospital, but that she was "talking and playing games."

"The new developments are a big pain, but she's going to make it," the family member said, adding, "we're taking her a Nintendo game."

St John's, where Taylor has been hospitalised for nearly a month, listed her condition as stable.

Taylor developed the bacterial pneumonia in the hospital, Dr Bernard Weintraub said in a statement released through the actress' New York publicist, Cher Samuels.

Taylor, 58, also developed a yeast infection that has entered her bloodstream. As a result, Taylor "will be hospitalised for approximately six more weeks," Sam said.

Taylor's other spokeswoman, Lisa Del Favero, said her latest ailments were diagnosed within the past two days.

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MADE IN SONY
WORLDWIDE EXCELLENCE

Colombia, Israel visa pact shelved

BOGOTA, May 12, (AP): Protesting the smuggling of Israeli weapons to cocaine traffickers, Colombia yesterday suspended a 28-year-old treaty that allowed Israeli citizens to enter the country without visas.

Colombia's foreign minister notified Israeli Ambassador Gideon Tadmor of the decision yesterday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. There was no immediate comment by the Israeli government.

The decision means Israelis who are in Colombia must apply for a visa from the government, and Israelis who wish to travel to Colombia must submit a visa application to a Colombian consulate.

Israel has claimed it has no knowledge of how a shipment of weapons it exported ended up being diverted to cocaine baron Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. Rodriguez Gacha was slain in a shootout with police in December.

Israel has accused the national security adviser of the Caribbean country of Antigua, Vere Bird Jr., of playing a key role in diverting the shipment of Israeli-made arms to Colombia's notorious Medellin drug cartel.

Reports have said the weapons deal was arranged by two Israelis, Maurice Sarfaty, a former Israeli Army officer, and Col Yair Klein.

Colombian officials have accused Klein, a reserve officer in the Israeli Army, of organising, training and equipping paramilitary groups, and declared him a fugitive from justice.

Klein has said the arms shipment was intended for a training school he wanted to set up in Antigua for Panamanian rebels opposed to Gen. Manuel Noriega, who was ousted by US forces in December.

When plans for the school fell through, he said, the weapons somehow were diverted to Colombia.

Assassinated
In other developments the chief of security for the city of Medellin was assassinated yesterday while waiting in his jeep at a traffic light, and two more policemen were shot to death in the turbulent cocaine centre.

The shooting deaths of the two policemen yesterday, one in Medellin and one in the nearby town of Bello, appeared to signal a new surge in attacks on policemen. Seven officers were killed in 72 hours in or near the city.

Bogota news media figures show 72 policemen have been killed this year in Medellin, 160 miles (260 km) northwest of Bogota, where the Medellin cartel has offered a reward of \$4,200 for any hitman who kills a police officer.

Also killed Thursday was a retired police major in Medellin, and a mayor-elect of the ruling Liberal Party in the state of Norte de Santander. In other parts of the country, another eight people were killed in a shooting involving Colombia's turbulent Esmeralda trade, along with three leaders of a peasant former organisation.

Haul
The Colombian Army said yesterday it had found another six tonnes of pure cocaine at a jungle collection centre in eastern Colombia, bringing the total seized in the area to a record 14 tonnes in the past week.

An army spokesman said soldiers had found six tonnes of the drug near a secret airstrip in Meta province, deep in the jungle hundreds of miles (km) east of the capital Bogota.

The airstrip was part of an illicit cocaine-trafficking complex raided last week by soldiers who initially seized eight tonnes of pure cocaine and four tonnes of cocaine base.

At 14 tonnes of pure cocaine, the find is now the biggest in Colombian history, outstripping the previous biggest seizure of 13.8 tonnes at the Tranquilandia and Vila Coca complexes in the same area in 1984.

Authorities have said the collection centre, operated by the powerful Medellin cocaine cartel, was part of an international drug-smuggling operation involving Bolivia, Peru and Central America.

Bus slides into gorge, 48 killed

AREQUIPA, Peru, May 12, (AP): A bus slid into a 600-foot-deep (200 metre-deep) gorge near this city in southern Peru, killing 48 people seriously injuring three, police said.

The bus, part of the Ormeno bus line, was headed to Lima from Arequipa, 545 miles (875 kilometres) southeast of the capital.

The accident occurred early yesterday between the towns of Tambillo and Vitor, 20 miles (30 km) west of Arequipa.

A spokesman for Ormeno said the bus was forced off the road by a truck driving in the wrong lane.

Nicaragua workers strike

Chamorro threatens mass firings

MANAGUA, May 12, (AP): About 60,000 government workers staged sit-in strikes yesterday, demanding 200 per cent pay increases and paralysing the new administration struggling to rebuild Nicaragua's shattered economy.

In a showdown with the Sandinista-dominated civil service, President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's government threatened to declare the strike illegal and fire those who do not return to work.

The workers also were demanding that Chamorro reinstate a suspended law, approved by the leftist Sandinista government less than three weeks after it lost Feb 25 elections, giving them the right to organise unions, bargain collectively, and strike.

Government employees had rejected a 60 per cent pay increase Chamorro had ordered this week when she announced a 9 per cent devaluation of the cordoba, Nicaragua's currency. The cordoba has been devalued four times in less than a month.

Public employees — a majority of them Sandinistas — occupied almost all ministry buildings Thursday night and early yesterday.

Shouting "power to the people," about 2,000 workers broke through a cordon of about 100 police officers and occupied a plaza outside the presidential offices.

"Violeta, Violeta, respect the people," the workers in the plaza called out.

Union leaders who tried to meet with Chamorro to begin negotiating raises and restitution of a civil service law she suspended were turned away.

They then asked for a meeting on Monday and said the strike would continue until "the government begins negotiations."

Chamorro said her government cannot afford to meet the workers' demands.

"We have inherited a country



State workers affiliated to the Sandinistas Party try to force their way through a line of police line outside Government House in Managua during a demonstration on Friday when they went on strike. (Reuters wirephoto)



Labour Minister Francisco Rosales threatened on Friday to fire 40,000 government workers who officially went on strike on Friday. He was speaking at the first press conference by President Violeta Chamorro's administration since it took office on April 25. (Reuters wirephoto)



Surrounded by her ministers, President Violeta Chamorro answers a question on Friday at her first press conference since taking office in which she decreed to return to its former owners all land deemed illegally confiscated by the Sandinista government. Her government also threatened to fire 40,000 government workers who officially went on strike on Friday. From left are Presidency Minister Daniel Lacayo, Chamorro and Government Minister Carlos Hurtado. (Reuters wirephoto)

that was virtually sacked and in complete bankruptcy and it is our responsibility to get it going again," she told a news conference, held in the presidential

office building where 300 employees sat idle. Labour Minister Francisco Rosales told the news conference: "Workers on strike

should return to their jobs, otherwise we will declare the strike illegal and apply the labour law and those who do not show up will be fired."

Castro lends hand to Noriega

'I've all the proof that proves accusations false'

MIAMI, May 12, (AP): Cuban President Fidel Castro has lent a hand to Manuel Noriega in his drug-trafficking case, the ousted Panamanian leader's lawyers said.

The Cuban president met with Noriega's defence team in March, attorney Frank Rubino said yesterday adding that he couldn't reveal what Castro told them due to the classified nature of the information.

The evidence (prosecutors) have against Noriega, then they have no evidence against him, and I have all the proof which proves the falsehoods of the accusations."

The Cuban leader did not say what kind of evidence he gave the lawyers, but claimed "to have all the cards in my hands to irrefutably prove the lies."

According to a February 1988 indictment, Castro mediated a dispute in 1984 between Noriega and Colombia's Medellin drug cartel over a raid on a drug lab the Panamanian leader had supposedly been paid to protect.

Noriega is held at the federal metropolitan correctional centre outside of Miami awaiting trial on charges he took money from the cartel to make his country a safe haven for cocaine smuggling.

Yesterday, US district judge William Hoeveler ordered prosecutors to explain why it gave \$5.8 million confiscated from Noriega to Panama's new government.

Hoeveler said it appeared the US government had failed to follow normal legal procedures before surrendering the cash found at Noriega's quarters in Panama during the US invasion in December.

"Although it's not common to have \$5 million or 6 million in one's bedroom... it appears the money was his," the judge said. "That raises an interesting question about what right the government had to give it away."

Hoeveler spoke during a hearing called by defence attorneys, who've threatened to withdraw, saying they haven't been paid since Noriega was captured Jan 4 two weeks after the invasion began.

Prosecutors have seized \$20 million in 27 bank accounts around the world.

"Fidel Castro met with some of Gen. Noriega's lawyers and discussed certain sensitive issues with us," Rubino told the Miami Herald. "He further provided us with certain documentation."

Castro was quoted by a Brazilian television reporter as saying his information will clear Noriega.

"I have even talked with Noriega's lawyers," Castro said. "If this is

Argentine envoy arrives in UK

LONDON, May 12, (Kuna): The first Argentine ambassador to Britain since the Falklands war arrived yesterday at London's Heathrow airport.

Mario Campora, previously number two in the Argentine Foreign Ministry told the British media he regarded his new appointment as the "culmination of his career."

He had been instructed by Argentine President Carlos Menem to do his best to improve relations in every area, he said.

Referring to Argentina's continuing dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands, he said that the two countries were being "very pragmatic."

Britain and Argentina resumed diplomatic ties in February, eight years after they fought a bloody war in the South Atlantic over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, which are around 8,000 miles from the UK.



Mario Campora, the first Argentine ambassador to Britain since the Falklands conflict, arrives at London's Heathrow airport on Friday. With him are his wife Magdalena, and children Magdalena, 14, Mario, 12, and Agustina, 10. (Reuters wirephoto)

Peorian kidnapped \$1.2m ransom demand

PEORIA, Illinois, May 12, (UPI): The family of a Peoria man kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas said yesterday they had received a ransom demand of \$1.2 million.

Marge Heimdal, the mother of Scott Heimdal, 27, said the family received word of the ransom demand Thursday through the State Department. She said the demand was made to a team of about three people sent to the jungle area along the Colombia-Ecuador border where Heimdal was kidnapped April 28.

"We have no proof of any kind he was OK or anything," Marge Heimdal said yesterday. "Whoever it was

who met with the kidnappers gave them a camera to take a picture of Scott."

She said the team also took in medical supplies for Heimdal, a Bible, and letters from his family and an Ecuadorian woman friend.

Marge Heimdal said she expected more details on the ransom when the team sent to the jungle makes its way back to Quito.

"We know the US government does not pay ransom demands," Marge Heimdal said. Asked if her family could pay the demands she said, "absolutely not."

New drug for brain infection

WASHINGTON, May 12, (Reuters): Government researchers said yesterday that a newly approved therapy for a deadly brain infection that strikes AIDS patients also was effective in preventing relapses of the disease.

A new study of 205 AIDS patients who had suffered an attack of cryptococcal meningitis found Pfizer Inc's fluconazole to be at least as effective as the standard therapy — and with fewer toxic side effects — in preventing recurrences.

Cryptococcal meningitis, a serious fungal infection that strikes about two to three per cent of people with AIDS, attacks the brain.

Call for end to racial tensions

Cool it, says NYC mayor

NEW YORK, May 12, (Agencies): In an impassioned speech to a city divided by racial clashes, Mayor David Dinkins called on New Yorkers to end the city's long history of ethnic conflict.

"This city is sick of violence and we're aching and we must heal the pain," Dinkins said yesterday in the 17-minute speech broadcast by several of the city's television and radio stations.

Dinkins, under fire from the media and supporters, offered to intervene personally in a confrontational, 4-month-long boycott by blacks of two grocery stores owned by Korean-Americans.

"All of us want to live our lives in peace and dignity — free to walk any street and shop in any store, at any time, in any neighbourhood, without fear of force or violence," the city's first black mayor told about 300 invited guests.

"We will never allow any group or any person to turn to violence or the threat of violence to intimidate others no matter how legitimate their anger or frustration may be," Dinkins said.

He mentioned several racial conflicts, including the boycott in Brooklyn. That controversy has spilled over into the courts, where a judge chastised Dinkins for not intervening.

In an isolated incident, a Korean grocery store owner reportedly assaulted a black woman in his store in Brooklyn's flatbush section. Some blacks have boycotted the store and mounted an angry picket since the incident.

Also, a brawl erupted last week at a Brooklyn college during a speech by a professor who believes in white superiority. A Columbia University sports banquet was disrupted by a soccer player's verbal attack on gays and Jews. Pulitzer prize-winning columnist Jimmy Breslin was suspended for two weeks by New York Newsday after slurring an Asian-American co-worker.

Guests at the speech — including religious leaders, city officials and representatives of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith — listened as Dinkins spoke in city council chambers.

Dinkins noted that New York has many problems, including expensive housing, crack, AIDS and a faltering economy.

"Unfortunately, some small-minded people prey upon these pressures, spreading a message not of unity but of division," he said. "I challenge all of the people of this city to reject these calls to bigotry."

Dinkins said blacks, Jews and immigrants from Ireland, Italy and other countries faced violence as they arrived here. "It's an old story, a cycle of immigration and discrimination that's as old as this city itself," he said.

Dinkins outlined a plan to heal the racial divisions, including formation of a bias strike force at the city commission of human rights and a study by the commission of discrimination in bank lending practices.

Hours before the speech, a black construction worker was beaten with bats and billy clubs by as many as five white men in the Brighton beach section of Brooklyn. The man was found wandering in Bensonhurst about a mile away from the attack and was treated for cuts and bruises, police spokesman Lt. Ray O'Donnell said.

Police said they didn't know whether the beating was racially motivated since the victim said no words were exchanged.



Black and white argument

A black woman and white youth argue in front of Brooklyn Supreme Court on Friday as two juries deliberate on the fate of two white youths charged in the death of a black youth. Two racially sensitive cases have focused media attention on racial strife in New York City. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tension boils in New York

Blacks-Koreans fight

NEW YORK, May 12, (AP): Police Capt Vincent Kennedy, on duty in a neighbourhood torn by black-Korean tensions, thought his day was getting easier when he saw a group of protesters leave and go into a subway station.

He was wrong. Minutes later, the group streamed out of the station and a new confrontation erupted, a microcosm of the animosity that has pulled at the Flatbush neighbourhood for months.

The tension boiled over in January when a black Haitian immigrant said she has been beaten by employees of Red Apple, a Korean grocery store, who accused her of shoplifting.

In the past decade, Korean immigrants have opened hundreds of small groceries and fruit-and-flower stores in New York. The Koreans are widely resented in poorer neighbourhoods, where they are seen as outsiders taking the residents' money without contributing to the community.

After the alleged beating in January, Flatbush residents began a boycott of the store and a neighbouring Korean business. The boycott is led by Sonny Carson, a controversial black activist who has described himself as "anti-white."

Leaflets from the boycott have encouraged consumers to avoid patronising "people who do not look like us."

A state supreme court judge on Monday barred two groups from picketing, but the pickets continued through Wednesday.

Kennedy was on duty when a group of pickets left, apparently to go to the courthouse several miles (kilometres) away to hold a demonstration in connection with a hearing on the boycott.

Police said that an officer spotted one of the pickets trying to enter the subway without paying, tried to stop her and was jumped by other protesters. The woman ran away and one of the other protesters was arrested for interfering.

But witnesses had a different account, saying the officer had beat the woman and the man

who came to her aid.

The several dozen enraged protesters who emerged from the subway station were joined by passersby, most of them Haitians. They surrounded officers who had come to investigate.

"Racist police," yelled a woman at an officer who stared stonily ahead.

"The officers nervously milled about."

"The best thing for us to do is just leave," one officer murmured to his partner before the two headed for their patrol car and took off.

Kennedy stepped to the centre of the angry crowd, which had now grown to more than a hundred, and spoke quietly to a hulk-horn-toting protester. He promised the man he would personally investigate what had happened in the subway and report his findings to him.

The man soon led the protesters back into the station. "That was very, very tense," Kennedy said, after wiping his brow. "Fortunately we were able to defuse it. You've got to find the cooler heads and let them prevail."

Kim Huyn-Ho, a Red Apple employee, spent Wednesday afternoon watching television in the beleaguered shop and giving interviews to TV news crews from South Korea and West Germany.

"I had only two customers who did three dollars worth of business today," Kim said after the newsmen had left. "Before the boycott, we would do \$2,000 in business a day."

The owner of the Red Apple has told reporters his shop could survive for only two or three more months if the boycott continues.

A Korean immigrant who works in a neighbourhood store owned by her father said some blacks had been stealing recently — she believes in order to force a confrontation and give the activists an excuse to call for another boycott.

"We do not want to provoke anything, so we let the few dollars (in stolen merchandise) go, to save trouble," she said.

Pope urges converts to return

Catholic church awaits you with open arms

VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico, May 12, (Reuters): Pope John Paul yesterday pleaded with Roman Catholics who have joined fast-growing Protestant fundamentalist sects in Latin America to return to the church, saying they would be welcomed back "with open arms."

The pope, on the sixth day of a gruelling eight-day trip across Mexico, made the comments in a homily at an outdoor mass celebrated for hundreds of thousands of people in Villahermosa, near the Guatemalan border.

Using the gospel parable of the vine and the branches, the pope said: "It is a painful fact that some have broken this bond of unity... by joining the sects."

Pleading with those who have joined the Protestant groups, the Pope said:

"Come back, without fear. The church awaits you with open arms. Nothing would make the heart of the pope more happy... than if those who have left would return to the bosom of the church."

He spoke to the huge crowd, one of the largest he has attracted during the trip, from a three-tiered altar-platform resembling an ancient Mayan temple.

It was the third time since the trip began on Sunday that the pope referred to the problem of the Protestant sects underscoring his and Latin American Catholic leaders' concern over the rapid growth of fundamentalist Evangelicalism.

The groups, most of which are based in the United States, have been luring Catholics away in growing numbers,

particularly through the use of religious television broadcasts.

In comments earlier in the trip, the pope called the Evangelicals "false shepherds" who sowed ambiguity and confusion among Catholics in Latin America.

A 1986 Vatican report said the sects appeared to offer more human warmth and support in small groups, simple answers to complicated questions and strong charismatic leadership.

Earlier in the day, a grim-faced pontiff led an emotional ceremony in the southern city of Tuxtla Gutierrez where, inside a colonial cathedral, he blessed the body of a Mexican bishop killed Thursday in an air crash en route to see the pontiff.

Move 'versary

PHILADELPHIA, May 12, (AP): Religious leaders vowed at a memorial service to seek justice for the 11 people killed in the MOVE firebombing five years ago, but the federal deadline to file charges expires tonight.

The Justice Department said it expected no civil rights charges against police or the city before the statute of limitations runs out in the firebombing in the headquarters of the radical group.

Two dozen people attended a memorial service last night for five children and six adult MOVE members killed when Philadelphia police bombed the group's powerhouse. Officials allowed the ensuing fire to rage, destroying 61 other homes and leaving 270 people homeless.

Police were trying to dislodge a bunker atop a MOVE building after hours of gunfire.



Pope John Paul II kisses the casket of Luis Miguel Canton, bishop of Tapachula, Mexico, on Friday. Canton died on Thursday along with 25 others when their plane crashed on the outskirts of Mexico. (Reuters wirephoto)

World News Roundup

America

Top Thornburgh aid quits: The second highest official at the US Justice Department quit Friday, less than two months after he was undercut by Attorney General Dick Thornburgh for seeking tough mandatory sentences for white-collar criminals.

Deputy Attorney General Donald B. Ayer, who had only joined Thornburgh's team last November, said he was returning to his old law firm. (UPI)

4 kids die in house fire: Fire that swept through a house after a woman left her seven children unattended killed four young girls and critically injured two of their brothers, authorities said Friday.

The girls, ages 3, 6, 8 and 9, were pronounced dead at a hospital hours after they were pulled from the fire Thursday night at the two-story wood-frame house just north of downtown Milwaukee, police Lt. Roosevelt Harrell said.

The victims' identities were not immediately released. (AP)

Mohawk violence: The state police are still needed at the St Regis Indian reservation, the scene of violent struggle over gambling rights, Gov. Mario Cuomo said Friday in Albany, New York.

Cuomo said at a news conference that a Mohawk police force eventually could replace the state troopers occupying the reservation, but that "getting to that point will be difficult." (AP)

Killer executed: Convicted killer Winford Stokes was executed by lethal injection Friday night for strangling and stabbing a woman to death 12 years ago.

Both the US Supreme Court and the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals in St Louis denied last-minute requests to block the execution Friday. Stokes, 39, was pronounced dead at 9:39 pm (2:39 GMT Saturday) after receiving separate lethal doses of sodium pentothal, pecton and sodium chloride at the Potomac correctional centre. (AP)

Broke Soviet circus stranded: The Great Circus Bim Bom, out of money and far from home in the Soviet Union, was stranded in an Atlanta suburb Friday, looking for the cash to finish what was to be a two-year goodwill tour of the United States.

"I've been all over the world and this is the first time this has ever happened," said Viktor Lomakin, who has a chimpanzee act in the stranded circus. "We have a great show. Not being able to perform is like taking a piece of gold and throwing it out." (UPI)

New birth pills: New birth control pills, containing one-fifth as much estrogen as the original pills, are safe for non-smoking women in their 40s and do not raise the risk for blood clots or cancer, researchers report in San Francisco.

Dr Daniel R. Mishell, chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Southern California School of Medicine, and other doctors gave the update Monday. (AP)

Stop spoon-feeding: Science teachers should stop spoon-feeding facts to students and allow them to "discover the sheer pleasure" of understanding science, a report said.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science said conventional methods of teaching science should be abandoned for more student-conducted experiments, specific goal setting and group work to allow students to attain scientific principles. (AP)

Invention convention: Chuck Hensger devised a concrete building joint that makes buildings more resistant to earthquakes.

Ray Moore invented a salt-based fluid that removes impurities from industrial smogstack gases.

Doug Elliott and Eddie Baker found a way to get more usable material from low-grade crude oil, which could help reduce the nation's reliance on foreign sources.

They were among 344 people honoured April 19 at an "invention convention" that was part of Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory's 25th anniversary celebration. (AP)

Fuel leak touched off ship fire: A fuel leak in one of the USS Conyngham's boiler rooms touched off the fatal fire that sent smoke and flames racing through the guided-missile destroyer, the ship's skipper said.

Cdr. William R. Williams told reporters Friday he feared he might lose his ship and had small boats in the water in case it had to be abandoned. (AP)

Ex-Nazi SS officer held: A man identified on a US immigration computer list as a former German Nazi SS officer was charged in US district court in Honolulu Friday with failing to disclose his Nazi past when applying for a US visa.

Joseph Aloysius Goertz, 76, traveling on a visa issued in Stuttgart, West Germany, was ordered held without bail following arraignment before magistrate Bert S. Toksinin, who scheduled a detention hearing for Tuesday. (AP)

Europe

Miracle at Lourdes under study: Catholic Church authorities said Thursday they will study the case of a 35-year-old Irish man to determine whether his ability to walk again after being paralysed is the result of a miracle.

Peader Clark, a former taxi driver from Sward in Dublin county, told church authorities earlier this week that he had been able to get out of his wheelchair and walk again after a visit to the Massabielle Grotto in Lourdes last year. (AP)

4 Italian officials charged: The police chief of Rome's airport, its ex-director, and two interior ministry officials have been accused of failing to respond to warnings of a 1985 airport attack, judicial officials said on Friday.

Investigating magistrate Maria Cordova issued formal summonses to the men following legal proceedings by the families of some of the 16 people who were killed when four Palesti-



Novelist dead

Walker Percy, one of America's most celebrated novelists died on Thursday. Percy is shown here in his backyard in Louisiana with his dog, Sweet Thing. His best known novel 'The Moviegoer' won a 1961 National Book Award for fiction. (Reuter wirephoto)



Ecology Generation

French Environment Minister Bruce Lalonde makes a point during a press conference where he announced the creation of a new environmental party, 'Ecology Generation', on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Gatwick airport

US loans UK bomb detector

LONDON, May 12. (AP) Baggage travelling through London's Gatwick airport will be screened by an advanced bomb detecting machine, the government said yesterday.

The thermal neutron analysis (TNA) machine is on loan from the US Federal Aviation Administration for a one-year trial at the airport 24 miles (39 kilometres) south of the British capital.

The FAA's decision to install the machines in airports around the world was prompted by the bombing of Pan American World Airways Flight 103 in December 1988 over Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 people on board the Boeing 747 and 11 people on the ground were killed when a bomb in the jet's luggage compartment exploded and brought the aircraft down on Lockerbie.

ians attacked Rome's Fiumicino airport on Dec 27. (Reuter)

Rise in cholera victims: Reported cases of cholera increased 10 per cent last year to 48,403, the World Health Organisation said Friday.

The number of countries reporting outbreaks rose to 35, five more than in 1988, and evidence suggests several other governments failed to declare the disease, WHO said.

Nearly three quarters of the listed cases occurred in Africa, where the disease resurfaced in three countries reported cholera-free in 1988 — Mozambique, Niger and Zambia. Sao Tome and Principe reported its first outbreak, totalling nearly 4,000 cases. (AP)

11 killed in Soviet floods: Floods killed at least 11 people, left three missing, and forced the evacuation of 18,400 lives on the Bashkiria region of the southern Ural mountains, local officials said Friday.

The Soviet press has been largely silent about the flooding, which began about a week ago when the Belaya, or white river, overflowed its banks because of heavy rains and melting snow. (AP)

Reward offered for missing hiker: The parents of Belgian climber Luc Poire, who vanished a month ago in the forests of Mount Kenya, offered a \$10,000 reward Thursday to anyone finding their son alive.

"They are very desperate," said Belgian embassy spokeswoman. "Nothing has been found for a long time."

Pope 32, was last seen April 9 at Austria Hut, a shelter about 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) up the southern side of the giant 5,100 metre (17,000 feet) mountain, which lies on the equator 90 miles (145 km) north of Nairobi. (UPI)

Syrian held in Greece: A Syrian businessman has been arrested in Greece and accused of attempting to smuggle gold and pearls worth more than \$200,000, police said on Friday.

Ahmed Samir, 40, was on his way from Geneva to Damascus when he was stopped at Athens airport by customs officials who said they found nine plaques of gold and 1,000 pearl necklaces in his luggage. (Reuter)

Chewing gum on school menus: Health officials recommend giving Finnish kids chewing gum with their meals in school cafeterias because it's good for their teeth. But educators are worried it could create a sticky problem. (AP)

Africa

Rebels kill five: Jonas Savimbi's US-backed Unita rebels killed five civilians and wounded 17 in two attacks on Angola's second-largest city of Huambo, the state daily Jornal de Angola reported Saturday.

According to the paper, the rebels killed one civilian and wounded 17 in an attack Thursday on the Cacilhas district of the city, 525 km (328 miles) southeast of Luanda, the capital.

Huambo was Unita's central Angolan capital until a 1977 military defeat.

Four other citizens died Tuesday in a rebel attack on the Huambo suburb of Vila da Graça, and the insurgents razed five buildings in the attacks, the paper said.

Two Unita bombs also exploded Tuesday in Luena, capital of eastern Moxico province, damaging two buildings but injuring nobody, the paper reported.

Despite initial contacts last month in Evora, Portugal, to work out a peace settlement in Angola's 15-year civil war, fighting continues between the rebels and the Marxist government's troops.

Combat is shifting to the northern provinces after a government offensive early this year plunged deep into southern rebel heartlands. (AP)

Adviser to testify: A former close adviser and confidant of deposed dictator Idi Amin, Briton Bob Astles, has agreed to testify before Uganda's Human Rights Commission, the government newspaper New Vision reported Thursday.

Astles, who lived and worked in Uganda for 35 years, was appointed chairman of an anti-corruption committee and given the military rank of major during Amin's 1971-1979 rule of the country.

He was detained on Amin's overthrow and deported in 1987, since which time he has written newspaper articles implicating numerous former government officials and army officers in human rights violations.

"The top dogs in most cases managed to go scot free and even managed to participate prominently in subsequent regimes," he wrote in one such article, according to New Vision.

The newspaper said Uganda's attorney-general had refused a request from Astles asking for immunity from re-arrest should he travel to Uganda to give evidence, but quoted the chairman of the Human Rights Commission as saying he did not think this would deter Astles from attending. (UPI)

German relief ship: The Ethiopian authorities have told a West German charity shipping about 1,500 tonnes of food to famine victims in northern Ethiopia that it cannot use the rebel-held port of Masawa.

Latin America

Quake shakes Mexico: A moderately strong earthquake shook southern Mexico on Friday but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

The quake, at 5:44 pm (2:44 GMT), registered 5 on the Richter scale at the Tacubaya station of the National University Geophysical Institute, a spokesman said.

The US Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado, registered the quake at 5.2 on the Richter scale and said it was centred in the Pacific Ocean off the Guerrero state coast (AP).

Cadets testify in Jesuit case: Two military cadets who were on guard when six Jesuit priests were killed last year testified in court Friday in a case that has raised an international outcry and threatened US aid to El Salvador.

Authorities, meanwhile, reported that 16 leftist rebels have been killed in clashes with the army, and President Alfredo Cristiani met with United Nations envoy Alvaro de Soto to discuss arrangements for peace talks set to start Tuesday in Caracas.

Sixteen subversives died yesterday in combat with combined units of the army, the armed forces press committee said in a statement Friday. The combat reportedly took place in La Unión Province, 93 miles (150 km) east of San Salvador, but the casualties could not be independently confirmed. (UPI)

11 buses burned in Lima: Leftist Shining Path rebels burned 11 state-owned urban transportation buses in simultaneous attacks on the outskirts of Lima, police said Friday.

The attacks took place as police launched massive arrests one week before the 10th anniversary of the Shining Path's armed insurgency.

More than 22,000 people have been detained in the past seven days in sweeps of the huge shantytowns that surround Lima, police said Friday.

Most were released when they showed proper identification. Police sources would not say how many people remained under arrest. (AP)

Peru seeking food aid: Peru, hit hard by drought, is calling on industrialised countries and the United Nations to donate food to help it through the next nine months, the government announced.

For the past year Peru, along with neighbouring Bolivia, has been suffering the worst regional drought this century. It has coincided with Peru's worst economic crisis in 90 years.

The drought has caused water rationing by the seven million residents in the capital, Lima, and its port city of Callao. Many outlying areas now rely on water delivered by truck. (AP)

Fujimori, Llosa top vote getters: Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, 56, and Alberto Fujimori, a 51-year-old agronomist, were the winners in April's first round of presidential elections, the national election board announced Friday.

The two top vote getters in a field of nine candidates will face each other in a run-off election June 10.

The first vote was April 8, but official results were delayed over a month.

With all 52,157 election districts accounted for, the election board said Vargas Llosa, leader of a conservative coalition, got 27.6 per cent while Fujimori, an independent who is now backed by some leftist factions, got 24.6 per cent of the vote. (UPI)

China harassing students in US

Couple wins political asylum

WASHINGTON, May 12. (Agencies) Senator Edward Kennedy charged yesterday that China has mounted a campaign to control Chinese students in the United States, and he urged the Justice Department to begin an immediate investigation.

Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, said official Chinese government documents received by the Senate Immigration Subcommittee Thursday "confirm a calculated practice on the part of the Beijing government to harass Chinese students in America who dare to advocate democracy for their country."

The disclosure of the anti-student campaign came as President Bush considers whether to retain China's most-favoured-nation trade status. He must notify Congress June 3 of his decision.

Bush and many members of Congress have been at odds over the US policy towards China since the bloody crushing of the pro-democracy protests in Beijing last year by the tanks and machine guns of the Chinese army.

Bush, despite severe criticism from Capitol Hill, has adopted a conciliatory position in hopes of not isolating China.

He also vetoed legislation — which Congress failed to overturn — which would have given the students in the United States special immigration status. Bush, however, issued an executive order to protect them.

There are an estimated 50,000 Chinese students in the United States and Canada.

Kennedy said the immigration subcommittee held hearings Jan 23 at which Chinese students testified they and some of their classmates were harassed and intimidated by Chinese officials.

"Our hearings revealed instances in which students leaders had their careers threatened, their families in China harassed and their activities in the United States monitored and challenged through a variety of means," Kennedy said.

In a letter to Attorney-General Dick Thornburgh asking for the investigation, Kennedy said the documents received by the subcommittee "show for the first time the extent to which this harassment is an organised campaign directed from Beijing."

"They confirm that the examples of intimidation brought to the attention of the subcommittee are not isolated instances, but are part of a well-organised programme to control the Chinese student population," he said.

Kennedy said, "the documented outline an aggressive strategy designed at the highest levels of the Chinese government for the establishment of front groups on US campuses to control Chinese students and to affect US China policy and Congressional actions."

"The documents detail the manner in which every Chinese student in America is identified and monitored, and embassy officials are directed to take specific steps against the government's most active opponents," he said.

He noted that Xu Lin, a Chinese diplomat who defected, said he was instructed by his superiors to warn students that discussions with Senators about their immigration status could place their families in China in danger.

Kennedy said these actions were a "serious breach of the diplomatic status of these officials," and added he was "particularly concerned that Chinese diplomats were routinely permitted to visit US campuses over the past few months to conduct supposedly normal consular functions, when in fact such visits were used to monitor and harass Chinese students — actions which may violate US law."

The US government has been investigating allegations that Chinese officials have been harassing US-based Chinese students who are critical of the Beijing government, the State Department said yesterday.

The statement by department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler followed allegations by a defector from the Chinese embassy who reported that embassy officials had been ordered to intimidate critics and court more ambivalent students.

The comments of the defector, Xu Lin, appeared in Friday's editions of the Washington Post.

Ms Tutwiler said that as the investigation proceeds, "we will continue to take appropriate action to afford Chinese students here the full protection of United States law."

"We have advised the Chinese government on several occasions that harassment of its citizens in the United States would violate our laws and would damage our bilateral relationship," she said.

A Chinese couple who fled their homeland's harsh family-planning laws won the State Department's backing in their quest for political asylum in the United States, their lawyer said.

The State Department ruling Friday effectively grants asylum to Li Jin Lin and his wife, Wang Sai Zhen. They are the first known refugees to test President Bush's order establishing fear of abortion or sterilisation as grounds for asylum, the British Home Office confirmed today.

More than 30 Chinese people, some said to have fled China after the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Beijing, will be deported tomorrow after rejection of their pleas for political asylum, the British Home Office confirmed today.

Agency officials said the earthquake registered 3 on the Japanese scale of 7 in Kushiro and Morioka in northern Japan, and lesser amounts as far south as Tokyo and Yokohama.

The Japanese scale measures ground motion at particular locations, and is not convertible with the Richter scale, which measures the total magnitude of an earthquake. A quake registering 3 on the Japanese scale can shake houses and buildings.

Nepal queen leaves council

KATHMANDU, May 12. (UPI) Queen Aishwarya, in a rare public statement, said Friday she had not embezzled money from social institutions and did not head thugs called "Mandaleys" linked to looting and arson last month after Nepal's first multi-party government in 29 years was installed.

The 40-year-old wife of King Birendra resigned as chairman of the Social Services National Coordination Council saying, "I do not have a single penny in any foreign bank. I have not taken a penny from the council either."

She denied charges that she headed the "Mandaleys" and said she did not hide money under a false name abroad.

During the successful seven-week movement to re-establish multi-party democracy in Nepal, wall posters said that "Pampha Devi Thakuri" had millions of dollars in foreign bank accounts and slogans were raised against her during demonstrations.

The queen, who is a poetess, said her only other name was Chaudhary Shah.

Other posters accused the queen of being chief of the "Mandaleys." The word means "gangster" and is used to describe the supporters of the now disbanded partyless Panchayat System that was controlled by the Royal Palace the past three decades.

King Birendra last night accepted the resignation of the queen as the chairperson of the Social Services Council and appointed Minister for Social Welfare Nirmala Acharya as its temporary chief.

The council is responsible for co-ordinating and approving charity provided by foreign governmental groups for projects in Nepal.

In a related development, the Royal Palace announced that no member of the royal family was involved with any institution derailing the new multi-party government.

This came after foreign press reports that some members were behind the "Mandaleys."

"Some of the foreign press have reported wildly of the involvement in some form or other of members of the royal family with the so-called vigilante groups engaged in derailing the newly-installed multi-party democracy," said the palace statement.

Other members of the royal family also head social organisations such as the Nepal Red Cross which is headed by an aunt of the king.

Meanwhile, the formation of a seven-member constitutional reform commission by Birendra Friday, without consulting the interim government of Prime Minister of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, has created confusion and a communist appointee refused to join it.

Bharat Mohan Adhikari, a communist, said "as a disciplined cadre of the Nepal Communist Party (Marxist) there is no question of me joining the commission. I do not accept the commission."

Bhattarai had requested that the publication of the list be postponed until he met the king who, in a meeting later, insisted that the responsibility to form such a commission was his.

The king told Bhattarai that the commission would send its constitutional recommendations to the coalition government for its approval, rejection or changes.



Moscoe escorted

A US embassy official (left) escorts Moscoe from Northaburjail, May 10. (Reuter wirephoto)

Police block

Protest march

SEOUL, May 12. (Reuter) Riot police fired tear gas today to disperse 3,000 chanting protesters trying to march to a Seoul cathedral after a rally against President Roh Tae-woo's ruling party.

Workers at the country's biggest car manufacturing company meanwhile voted to go on strike for higher wages.

The demonstrators in the capital were stopped by police who fired teargas at rioters and bystanders. About 200 students threw stones at police from inside a nearby campus.

The government has vowed to stamp out any further violent protests following the biggest demonstration in over a year on Wednesday night involving nearly 100,000 people nationwide.

Police stormed the Hyundai Shipyard in April to evict striking workers.

"Yesterday 100,000, today a million, tomorrow 10 million, until we bring this government down," read one poster today.

In Ulsan, a key southeast industrial city, a union spokesman announced that 79 per cent of over 24,000 workers at the Hyundai Motor Company had voted to strike after three rounds of talks failed to produce agreement on wages for 1990.

The union is demanding an 18 per cent increase, the management has offered 5.9 per cent.

Hyundai Motor resumed normal operations only six days ago after a one-week walk-out in sympathy with an abortive strike at Hyundai Heavy Industries company, also in southeastern Ulsan.

Police stormed the Hyundai Shipyard in April to evict striking workers.

Students mar Seoul's image

A safe place to visit, invest

SEOUL, May 12. (AP) Once again, riotous students in the streets and thousands of workers jabbing clenched fists in the air have marred South Korea's public image and alarmed the government.

For years, South Korea has been assiduously building an image for itself as a safe, stable place to visit and invest. Its economic miracle has bolstered the picture of a strong, industrious nation.

Yet the South Korean government's popularity is at an all-time low, and its export-fuelled economy has sagged. Inflation is running in double-digits, workers are demanding more say in management and foreign investors are wondering if they can afford rising costs.

Workers, who feel they deserve to have more say in the business and personnel decisions of companies they work for, are accusing the government of clamping down on labour rights and siding against them with big business.

Radical students, who have long considered themselves the political conscience of the nation, see economic and political turmoil as the government's fault and are demanding it be overthrown.

Lo time-honoured Korean fashion, complaints are registered with protests, and the demonstrations are far smaller than those three years ago that forced electoral reforms, the government is cracking down hard to save itself as well as its international image.

Last Wednesday about 100,000 students hurling firebombs and rocks fought police in 17 cities, the largest anti-government demonstrations since 1987. Radical students have vowed they will continue.

Two weeks ago tens of thousands of workers walked off their jobs in sympathy after riot police charged into the nation's largest shipyard and the state-run television network to end strikes.

So far this year students and workers have demonstrated on separate turfs, but history has shown that an alliance of the two groups can have grave results for high-handed governments.

In 1987, far larger protests by students and workers combined to force the government to accept reforms that eventually led to popular elections for the presidency and the victory for Roh Tae-woo.

In putting down this year's worker unrest, Roh's government gambled that the labour turmoil would blow over and not become a wider political issue. Wages have risen 50-60 per cent in the last two years and labour rights, not economics, were the concern.

Most workers returned to their jobs this week. The government's heavy-handed manner of squashing the workers' backfire, however, in that it was fodder for radical students who have been accusing the Roh government for months of being anti-reform and dictatorial.

Students, dissidents and opposition politicians have accused the government of engineering a political coup by merging the ruling party with two opposition parties earlier this year. The merger gives the government overwhelming control of the National Assembly.

Roh said the merger was necessary to create political and economic stability because Parliament was deadlocked and affairs of state were mired in bickering.

Strong quake jolts Soviet island of Sakhalin: Japan reports

TOKYO, May 12. (AP) A severe earthquake shook the Soviet island of Sakhalin today, Japan's central meteorological agency reported.

The quake registered 7.7 on the Richter scale and struck at 1:51 pm (04:51 GMT) about 600 kilometres (370 miles) below the eastern coast of central Sakhalin, the agency said in a preliminary report. The epicentre was about 1,450 kilometres (900 miles) north of Tokyo.

The Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK)

said it contacted a Soviet weather observatory near the earthquake's epicentre and was told there were no injuries or reports of damage other than overturned furniture.

The earthquake was felt in many parts of northern Japan, but there was no threat of tsunami, or powerful ocean waves triggered by seismic disturbances, the central meteorological agency said.

Japanese police said they had received no reports of injuries.

An earthquake registering 7.7 on the open-ended Richter scale can devastate populated areas if it strikes nearby, but much of the strength of today's quake was likely to have dissipated below the earth's surface because of its depth. There were no reports of damage or injury.

The earthquake that hit the San Francisco bay area of California last October, killing 67 people, registered 7.1 on the Richter scale.

Agency officials said the earthquake registered 3 on the Japanese scale of 7 in Kushiro and Morioka in northern Japan, and lesser amounts as far south as Tokyo and Yokohama.

The Japanese scale measures ground motion at particular locations, and is not convertible with the Richter scale, which measures the total magnitude of an earthquake. A quake registering 3 on the Japanese scale can shake houses and buildings.

Handwritten signature or mark.

US no to Soviet arms offer

WASHINGTON, May 12, (AP). A senior US arms control negotiator yesterday rejected a Soviet plea for talks on cutting tactical nuclear weapons at sea, but the navy's chief officer told Congress such negotiations "could be in our interests."

The top arms adviser to Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev told Congress on Tuesday that future talks on other categories of nuclear and conventional weapons could be delayed by continued US resistance to naval arms talks.

Ronald Lehman, director of the arms control and disarmament agency, told a Senate panel the Soviet government had not formally established a link between naval weapons reductions and other forms of arms control. He said he hoped Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev was speaking for himself and not for Gorbachev on Tuesday.

Lehman said the administration remained optimistic that it could reach agreement with Moscow on the main provisions of a treaty cutting long-range nuclear weapons before Gorbachev arrives in Washington May 30 for a summit meeting. The leaders had hoped to sign at least the outlines of the treaty during the summit, although the US side says progress has slowed in recent weeks.

"We see no reason why we shouldn't be able to get an agreement" next week when Secretary of State James Baker meets Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow, he said.

Gorbachev proposed at his last meeting with Bush in Malta last December that the superpowers undertake to negotiate cuts in short-range naval nuclear arms.

But Bush has resisted. He has argued such cuts would undermine the United States' position as the predominant maritime power.

Lehman said the Bush administration saw no way that negotiated reductions in short-range naval nuclear arms—mainly torpedoes, depth bombs and anti-ship missiles—would strengthen US security. He said it could harm the security of US allies.

"We've spent a lot of time studying and we just haven't found it" to be in US interests, Lehman told the armed services subcommittee on projection forces.

But Adm. Carlisle A.H. Trosi, chief of naval operations, took a different approach. While expressing doubt about Soviet intentions in pursuing such negotiations, Trosi said he could contemplate eliminating all tactical naval nuclear arms if related weapons such as bombers assigned to naval fleets were banned.

"If we could, with proper confidence in their willingness to abide by an agreement, be sure there were no nuclear weapons that threatened either side's ships at sea, I'm sure we'd both be more comfortable that way," Trosi told the panel.

The armed services propose cutting two aircraft carriers and three new ballistic missile submarines and deferring plans for mobile land-based intercontinental missiles, according to published reports.

The proposals were contained in classified memoranda submitted to Defense Secretary Dick Cheney in response to his instructions to identify further cuts in the 1990s that will be submitted to a major review this summer, according to stories in today's editions of the New York Times and the Washington Post.

The memoranda cover the 1992 through 1997 fiscal years, and officials incorporate known decisions, such as Cheney's plan for only 75 B-2 Stealth bombers instead of the original proposal of 132.

The State Department blamed the Soviet Union yesterday for blocking an "open skies" agreement to open up NATO and Warsaw Pact countries to aerial military surveillance.

Secretary of State James Baker is scheduled to leave Monday for a three-day series of meetings with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in what was supposed to be a push to settle arms control issues before the May 30 June 3 Washington summit.

Richard Boucher, a State Department spokesman, said the Soviets "have blocked consensus" on issues involved in the open skies conference, which opened in Ottawa in February. "We gave promise of an early agreement in a follow-up meeting this week in Budapest."

A Soviet proposal that a united Germany join both NATO and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact is absurd, East Germany's chief diplomat said Friday.

Foreign Minister Markus Meckel also said he "assumes" the Soviets would soon pull out about 195,000 troops of their 380,000 Red Army troops in East Germany, but gave no reason for his assumption.

The strategic future of a unified Germany is one of the key hurdles to German unification, which is expected next year regardless of the Soviet position.

Baltics accord

Historic one-day summit

TALLINN, Soviet Union, May 12, (Agencies): The presidents of the three Baltic republics agreed today to restore a pre-war council co-ordinating their foreign and domestic policies as part of their efforts to gain independence from the Kremlin.

The accord to revive the 1934 treaty of unity and co-operation, and thereby recreate the Baltic council, was reached during four-and-a-half hours of talks at an historic one-day summit in the Estonian capital, Tallinn.

The documents were signed by Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, Estonian President Arnold Ruutel and Latvian President Anatoli Gorbunovs during a brief ceremony attended by reporters.

The council of Baltic states, will consist of the presidents and senior ministers of the three republics, and will make non-binding recommendations on the governments, Estonian officials said.



Baltic harmony

Presidents Anatoli Gorbunov (left) of Lithuania, and Vytautas Landsbergis (right) of Lithuania shake hands watched by Estonia's President Arnold Ruutel during their meeting in Tallinn, Estonia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bush plans

Citizens corps to help East

COLUMBIA, South Carolina, May 12, (AP): President George Bush today announced the creation of a volunteer "citizens democracy corps" to help Eastern European nations build political and economic institutions on a Western model.

The corps would set up a clearing house for US private assistance programmes that want to help Eastern Europeans "to strengthen the foundations of free society in Eastern Europe," Bush told a graduation audience.

"We can help them build political systems based on respect for individual freedoms, for the right to speak our mind, to live as we wish, and to worship as our conscience tells us must," he said in a university of South Carolina commencement address.

He also announced that the US Export-Import Bank will begin extending Poland a new line of medium-term export credits and loan guarantees to purchase US-produced machinery, technology and supplies.

The citizens democracy corps will match European requests for assistance with US private sector groups that have expressed a desire to help, the White House said in a statement.

The programme, to be directed by a group of presidential appointees, is expected to facilitate help in such areas as constitutional law and parliamentary procedures, English language training, journalism and publishing, public health,

NEWS IN BRIEF

Walesa's criticisms unhelpful: Solidarity leader Lech Walesa's recent criticisms of the government helped create do not serve the "good of the country," government spokeswoman Malgorzata Niemcewicz said Friday.

Walesa in recent weeks has shifted from trying to nudge the government into accelerating the pace of reform to outright criticism of the government, now run by intellectuals linked with Solidarity for the last decade.

The Solidarity leader's remarks toughened Thursday when he told workers who had staged a brief work stoppage at the Gdansk shipyard, where the free trade movement was born, that he was ashamed of the Solidarity-dominated government for failing to resolve the yard's future status. (AP)

Albania promises change: Albania on Saturday promised more changes to its orthodox communist system and said reforms announced this week were crucial to the country's development.

Prime Minister Adil Carcani made the pledge at talks with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar who has pressed the issue of human rights on an unprecedented visit to Europe's last one-party communist state.

Carcani did not give details but a government spokesman briefing reporters on the talks said they would include "every area of development" including human rights. (Reuters)

Cashing life insurance policies: Many East Germans are cashing in their life insurance policies so they can have more savings on hand when their currency is converted to the strong West German mark, the government said Friday.

Long lines have been forming at state insurance bureaus in recent days because East Germans believe they will get a better exchange rate on cash than on insurance, the official ADN news agency said.

Baltic state representatives had established the council in September 1934 in Geneva. A 1971 Soviet history book said the alliance became "a hub of anti-Soviet agitation."

The Baltics were part of the Russian empire, but gained their independence amid the turmoil of World War I and the Bolshevik Revolution. They were absorbed by Josef Stalin in 1940 as confrontation between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany loomed at the start of World War II.

The republics want to show a united face to Moscow, which imposed an economic blockade on Lithuania after it declared independence on March 11.

The old Baltic council was a nine-man body which met regularly to co-ordinate the policies of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, which were independent from 1918 to 1940.

The governments of the three republics are trying to restore independence, despite fierce Kremlin resistance, after elections returned pro-sovereignty majorities to their parliaments.

No details were immediately available on how often the revived Baltic council would meet.

The meeting in the ornate 18th-century government building in Tallinn was the first between the three Baltic presidents since their election.

"We must do all we can to achieve our goal—the sovereignty of our three nations," Gorbunovs said when the talks opened.

"This is a unique historical event. We must join our hands together in a declaration of unity," said Ruutel.

In brief opening remarks to reporters, delivered in the native language of each before the closed meeting at the Toompea palace overlooking Tallinn's old town, the presidents spoke of their "common fate." They stood together and smiled for a horde of photographers.

Ruutel said he and his counterparts would sign four documents: one on political co-operation, a letter to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, a letter to US President George Bush, and a joint statement.

Gorbachev will travel to Washington at the end of this month for a meeting with Bush. The Baltic republics' drive for independence is expected to be a topic there, as well as a meeting between US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow next week.

The Kremlin has slapped a tough economic embargo on Lithuania, and signs of trouble continue to mount for the three republics.

Landsbergis was quoted today as saying up to 300,000 people soon will be unemployed if Moscow continues its economic blockade against the republic of 3.8 million people.

Landsbergis said Lithuania will have to tighten its belt so that fewer raw materials from the outside are needed, according to an English-language broadcast of Vilnius radio.

Meanwhile, the Information Bureau of the Lithuanian Supreme Council legislature reported in a statement that a column of more than 100 Soviet military vehicles rumbled through the capital Vilnius in the early morning.

It quoted witnesses as saying the convoy included 59 armoured personnel carriers.

Insulting or slandering President Mikhail Gorbachev could earn six years in prison under a draft law considered by the Soviet Parliament, Soviet media said.



Water unification

West German police hoses down protesters with water cannons in Frankfurt yesterday demonstrating against the unification of two Germanys. About 20,000 people took part in the demonstration. (Reuters wirephoto)

Scuffle reported in poll campaign

BUCHAREST, May 12, (Reuters): Ion Ratiu, Romania's millionaire presidential candidate, alleged today that opponents of the ruling party suffered extensive intimidation in the campaign for the nation's first free elections in 50 years.

The Romanian-born, British-educated Ratiu said he had been prevented from holding an election meeting in Oradea, northern Romania, yesterday.

"There were a lot of people both inside and outside the hall where I was to speak armed with stones and empty bottles and they began scuffling with my supporters," Ratiu told Reuters.

He said few police were in evidence, no attempts were made to control the crowd and he decided to leave.

"This was not the first time, it has happened before," Ratiu said.

Ratiu's British-born wife Elisabeth had been attacked and her car windows smashed in Bucharest last Saturday, he added.

The US government angered the governing National Salvation Front (NSF) on Thursday by recalling its ambassador to Romania prior to the elections on May 20.

Washington is concerned about reports of intimidation of opposition candidates and questions whether the polls could be free and fair.

The NSF, which assumed power after last December's revolution and is favoured to win the May 20 vote, has denied allegations that it was intimidating opponents of its own presidential candidate, Ion Iliescu.

Critics of the NSF say it is composed of people with close links to the regime of deposed and executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

The government says that its toleration of demonstrations that have blocked Bucharest's busiest thoroughfare for the past 20 days is proof that it allows freedom of expression.

"Show me any capital in the world where something like this would be allowed," one NSF official said.

Ratiu, 72, who made his fortune in property and shipping, returned to his homeland in January after campaigning for human rights in Romania for more than 40 years.

He said he had come back to help guide the country back to democracy and economic prosperity after 45 years of communist rule.

"But there is no way that the rulers of this country will let me explain to the people what I propose. They are afraid of me," he said.

His plans for economic reform of the country are for a gradual return to private enterprise, he said.

The unit's activities in Mozambique and Swaziland. Botes said CCB activities included murder, sabotage, bombings, bribery and blackmail, the newspaper reported. The paper said Botes claimed his agents were responsible for a 1988 bomb blast in Mozambique that blew off the arm of African National Congress legal expert Albie Sachs.

Botes claimed his unit was instructed to kill South African Communist Party chief Joe Slova, then in exile in Zambia, the article said. It did not say if any attempt was made on Slova's life.

The newspaper said Botes claimed that CCB operatives put cholera germs in drinking water at the Dobra refugee camp in Namibia in 1989 as part of efforts to disrupt the South West African People's Organisation's (Swapo) election campaign.

Also, Botes was quoted as saying, the car of United Nations special representative Martti Ahtisaari was to have been burned but its windows smashed. He did not say why it had not happened.

Police said today they had found the body of a black South African policeman who had apparently been stoned to death while on duty.

Doctors save handicapped

Romania's children

CIGHID, Romania, May 12, (Reuters): Doctors are fighting to save the lives of 113 mentally-handicapped Romanian children abandoned by their parents during the rule of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu to certain death in concentration-camp conditions.

At a children's home in Cighid, they are struggling under a grim legacy of neglect to prevent them from joining 62 children who died here last year and are buried in a small graveyard on the premises.

"This month not a single child died," Minodora Hrimuc, the institution's new head, told Reuters.



Doana Cornea, Romania's best known dissident, announced on Thursday that she is starting a hunger strike in solidarity with the students camped out in University Square protesting the National Salvation Front's domination of political power. (Reuters wirephoto)

As reporters toured the home, near Romania's northwestern border with Hungary, children with hopeful smiles and big innocent eyes, starved of the warmth of human contact, clung to my hands and legs wanting me to hold and carry them.

They played with my notebook, carried my Romanian translator's handbag and were fascinated by the noise of my car horn—objects they had never seen or heard before.

Shortly after last December's revolution, television footage of Cighid, in a wooded area at the end of a pitted gravel track, shocked both Romanians and the entire world, sparking a surge of sympathy.

A West German humanitarian organisation, Der Arbeiter Samariter Bund, has supplied Cighid with clothes, food, toys, washing machines, medicine and staff.

Before the revolution, the children slept in cages, were unwashed, underfed and unvaccinated and ran wild through the building naked and without anyone to care for them.

Now, a staff of two doctors, 10 specialised assistants and 26 nurses take the children outside for fresh air, play games with them and offer them constant physical contact and affection.

Some of the children, like five-year-old Cristian, are only now learning to speak because there was no one to talk to them before. Some with emaciated legs cannot walk because they were never taken out of their iron-barred cots.

"The conditions I found when I started working here were too horrible to describe," Hrimuc said. "All of the children had lice, diarrhoea, skin infections and stomach diseases."

But now, she said, "the children are no longer like animals. They've become sociable. They want people around them."

Cighid was one of the most horrifying examples of the effects of Ceausescu's high birthrate policy which led destitute parents to abandon children to state orphanages.

It was once referred to by Romanians as the "death camp" or "terminus", a dumping ground for children with incurable mental handicaps. Few who were sent there ever came out alive.

PRAGUE, May 12, (AP): More than 100,000 people rallied in downtown Prague today to demand punishment for crimes committed under four decades of communist rule.

The demonstration, the biggest since a wave of street protests toppled communist leader Milos Jakes last November, was organised by the Confederation of Political Prisoners, an organisation of 8,000 people who were imprisoned for political beliefs.

"We want people to hear the truth about communism, we demand investigation of all communist crimes and just punishment for those who are found guilty," the confederation's 75-year-old chairman, Rudolf Pernsky, told a reporter.

The Nazis preached racial hatred, the communists preached class hatred," the main speaker, Vladimir Suraska, told the crowd in Wenceslas Square.

The communist mafia in the whole world, using the traditional methods of intimidation, pressure and blackmail," said John Bok, Parliament candidate for the radical party.

The protesters, chanting "punish, punish," shared Wenceslas Square with a group of about 20 hunger strikers demanding confiscation of unjustly acquired communist property and opening of the party's archives.

The hunger strikers, who have been fasting since May 6, received a visit last night from President Vaclav Havel, in a symbolic gesture of support for their demands, Czechoslovak television reported.

Athenians protest against De Klerk

ATHENS, May 12, (Agencies): Police scuffled with left-wing demonstrators protesting a visit to Greece by South African President Fwdelek de Klerk yesterday.

The South African chief, who arrived early Friday, talked with President Constantine Karamanlis and conservative Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis before the violence broke out in central Athens.

Left-wing groups who assembled at the Athens University to protest De Klerk's visit marched to the Parliament building in the centre of the capital, where police scuffled with them. There were no reports of injuries.

The protesters, made up mainly of the youth branches of the Greek Communist Party and the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement, said De Klerk should not have been invited to Greece while South Africa still followed its racial separation policy of apartheid.

The South African president said his government had launched an irreversible process to abolish racism.

"An irreversible process has begun in South Africa," he told journalists. "A new reality affecting our country and the region has come into being," he said.

Mitsotakis told reporters he welcomed what he described as a positive steps taken in South Africa recently to eradicate apartheid.

De Klerk was the first head of state to visit Athens since the conservative New Democracy Party came to power, after winning the general elections last month, and the leftists said his arrival may indicate the direction in which Greek foreign policy was heading.

De Klerk flew to Athens from France earlier in a continuation of his nine-nation European tour.

Republican guards wearing silver breastplates and plumed helmets lined the courtyard of the Elysee Palace as the Socialist President Francois Mitterrand came out on the steps to welcome the reform-leading South African politician.

"Just the fact that I met with them shows a recognition of the change under way in South Africa," De Klerk told a news conference after an hour of talks with Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace and a separate session with Rocard.

"There is no turning back," De Klerk said after the meeting with Mitterrand. "South Africa will be a constitution that is fair to all South Africans. It will not be racist, and it cannot be discriminatory in any way."

Along with his satisfaction at the meetings he has had so far, De Klerk announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with Denmark.

"There has been a surge of new interest in what is happening in South Africa and what is happening in the Southern African region in particular," De Klerk said at a joint news conference with Mitsotakis, explaining the reasons for his European tour.

"We have found that in actual fact there is a re-evaluation taking place in the total international community with regard to the situation in South Africa," he said.

Nelson Mandela told more than 200 South Africans yesterday that he could see the day when their 15,000 banished brethren around the world would eventually be able to go home.

"We feel the day we have been waiting for might be close at hand," the anti-apartheid activist said after a rousing welcome by the exiles, at a training camp of the African National Congress outside Luanda.

Winnie Mandela paid tribute to the militants working abroad, many for up to three decades.

"You have made us walk tall, made us feel we could challenge Pretoria with the knowledge you could hit where we inside (South Africa) couldn't," she said.

"You have always shown discipline and we hope you will show the same discipline when you come home... to help us face a very difficult period in our history," she added.

South African Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu called yesterday for continued economic sanctions against the apartheid government in South Africa while optimistically predicting major new political reforms within the year.

"We need for you to maintain the pressure until the removal of apartheid is irreversible," Tutu told Mayor Tom Bradley and the city council during a special ceremony for the Nobel peace prize laureate at city hall.

The Australian government hopes to increase financial assistance to non-government organisations in South Africa to help dismantle apartheid, Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans said Thursday.

Kuwaitis in Justice Ministry reach 40.3 per cent

Plans for further increase

THE assistant undersecretary for administrative and financial affairs at the Ministry of Justice Mishari Saud Thamer Al Mutairi has said that the percentage of Kuwaitis at the ministry reached 40.3 per cent.

Public posts

He told a local daily that the total number of staff at the ministry is 2057, of which 830 are

Kuwaitis, adding that Kuwaitis holding judicial positions at the ministry account for 30.7 per cent and 43.6 per cent specialists.

He pointed out that over the past ten years the number of Kuwaitis operating on the ministry's staff of advisors, judiciary and prosecution has tripled and the increase among non-Kuwaitis has not exceeded 61 per cent since 1979.

Mutairi further added that the

ministry plans to increase the percentage of Kuwaiti staff holding such positions by 20 per cent during its next five-year plan whereby to bring the percentage up to 61 per cent at the end of the plan.

He said the Kuwaitis holding ordinary public posts have on the other hand decreased since 1978 to reach a minimum of 22 per cent in 1982.

He pointed out also that

Kuwaiti staff decreased constantly in contrast to the number of non-Kuwaiti personnel, but the percentage evened out during the five last years reaching 34.1 per cent on Nov 30, 1989.

As to the positions of specialists, Kuwaiti specialists do not exceed 13 of the total 56 specialists at the ministry, but changes in the ministry policy has increased the number of Kuwaitis holding specialised

positions in 1989 to 31 on Nov 30, 1989, accounting for 43.7 per cent of the total specialist staff.

He said that the ministry spared no efforts in attracting more and more Kuwaitis into the judicial field, and arranged for special training courses to qualify them to hold responsible positions. Moral and financial incentives are also used to improve the level of staff performance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wakeham visit

KUWAIT, May 12, (Kuna): The British Energy Secretary John Wakeham arrives here tomorrow on a three-day official visit to Kuwait within a Gulf tour.

He will be received upon arrival by Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah and a number of senior officials. During the visit, the British secretary will hold talks with the minister of oil, senior officials at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its affiliates, the minister of electricity and water Dr Hmoud Al Rqobah, the governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem and a number of leading Kuwaiti businessmen.

He will also be received by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier. The official is due to address a press conference at the British embassy prior to departure for Doha Tuesday.

Rifai returns

KUWAIT, May 12 (Kuna): Envoy of HH the Amir Advisor Mohammed Sulaiman Sayed Ali returned home yesterday after touring Pakistan and India and delivering Amiri messages to leaders of both countries.

Sayed Ali told Kuna on return that he conveyed HH the Amir's messages to premiers of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto and India, V.P. Singh.

He added that the Amir's initiative in sending the two messages was "greatly appreciated by senior officials of both countries and they (messages) represented His Highness' personal concern and the state of Kuwait's with events in that region."

GCC conference

RIYADH, May 12, (Kuna): Information undersecretaries in the Gulf Co-operation Council States (GCC) will hold here next Monday a preparatory meeting for the 5th GCC information ministers conference due to be held May 23.

Director-general of information at secretariat of the GCC Dr Abdullah Al Jasser told the Qatari News Agency that the undersecretaries will discuss several important topics among them a work paper presented by the general secretariat on TV co-operation among member states in collective purchase of programmes and the private sector's partaking in joint TV production.

Sudan message

MANAMA, May 12, (Kuna): The Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received a message from chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir concerning consultations on issues of common interest and ways to boost bilateral relations.

The message was delivered this morning to Sheikh Isa by the Sudanese non-resident ambassador to Bahrain Abdul Aal S. Farah.

10 pull out

(Continued from Page 1)

Mishan Jdaan Al Mutairi - from Subhiya
Saleh Ibrahim Al Abedani - from Fahla
Mohamed Ahmed Al Naser - from Rowdha
Fahed Jada'an Al Azemi - from Riqqa
Moustafa Abdulla Al Mutawa - from Adailiya

Election circles predict the number of withdrawals to increase especially towards the end of the month after the unofficial tribal "sub-elections". Such elections are conducted by major tribes and aim at reducing the number of contestants from the same tribe.

Names of heads and members of about 120 election committees will be announced soon. The number of eligible voters is estimated at 62,000.

Husseini arrives

KUWAIT, May 12, (Kuna): Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Hussein Al Husseini arrived here today on a visit to Kuwait to brief Kuwaiti officials on developments of the Lebanese crisis.

On his arrival, Husseini was received by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed and Lebanon's ambassador to Kuwait.



Slaughterhouse project

The minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al Rifai recently inspected the slaughterhouse project at Jahra and discussed with officials at the site reasons of delay in project. Rifai also visited the vegetables market project at Farwaniya Governorate. He was accompanied by acting director of municipality Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali and senior officials of the municipality.

The minister discussed schemes of the slaughterhouse projects with director of constructions department of the municipality and reprimanded the contractor carrying out the project for the delay. He added that only 13 per cent of the project is done and commented that he will withdraw the project from the contractor if he fails to finish it in the proper time.

From the courts

Five years RI, fine for liquor smuggler

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man identified as M.A. to 5 years imprisonment with hard labour and fined him KD2,000 for smuggling liquor from Iraq into Kuwait. The court also fined his companion KD300 and ordered his deportation from Kuwait for illegally leaving and entering Kuwait. The court was told that a Kuwaiti border guard patrol saw a car crossing the border from Iraq into Kuwait. It called for assistance and the car was seized just before it could return back to Iraq. A Kuwaiti citizen and an expatriate were caught in the car along with 360 bottles of whisky, a sub-machine gun and 30 bullets. During interrogations, the Kuwaiti said that it was he who tried to smuggle the liquor for his own personal use and that his companion was not at all involved.

THE Criminal Court sentenced six men to four years imprisonment with hard labour each for manufacturing and selling local liquor and sentenced a seventh to one year imprisonment for selling the liquor. The court also ordered the deportation of all. The court was told that a police informer succeeded in buying a bottle of liquor from the 7th accused against paying KD10. The man guided the police to the other six accused who confessed manufacturing and selling

liquor. The seventh accused told the police that he was buying each bottle for KD5 and reselling it for KD10.

THE Criminal Court sentenced two men to seven years imprisonment each with hard labour and ordered their deportation from Kuwait, but acquitted a third man tried in the same case. The court was told that the first two defendants were accused of selling fake US Dollar notes with the knowledge that the notes were forged. The second defendant said that he got the forged dollars from his brother, the third defendant. The two defendants were arrested through a police informer who was sent to buy some of the dollars from the two defendants and said that they got it from the brother of the second who brought them from outside Kuwait. But the court found no evidence that the third defendant was involved in the charges. For that, the court acquitted him, but sentenced the first two to 7 years imprisonment with hard labour and ordered their deportation from Kuwait.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to 5 years imprisonment with hard labour and ordered his deportation for raping a teenage girl. The court also sentenced another to three months imprisonment for assisting the first in

his crime. The court was told that the main defendant accompanied the teenage girl in his car, reached the second defendant home and asked him for the key. The second defendant gave him the key, knowing he was going to rape the girl. The first defendant claimed before the court that he accompanied the girl with her consent. The court however, changed the charges on the second accused from assisting the first to using his house for vulgar acts.

THE Traffic court acquitted a driver of knocking down a man who crossed the street under a pedestrian flyover instead of using the flyover. The court's sentence was later upheld by the Appeal Court who cited the victim for being responsible. The court refused to order the insurance company to pay blood money to relatives of the victim. The court heard that the victim tried to cross the Istiklal street from a place under the pedestrian flyover after jumping over the fence that separates the two directions of the road. The driver was driving his car at 10 pm at a speed of 80 to 90 km/h and was surprised by the victim at a distance of only three metres. He tried to stop his car but caught totally unaware, the driver was unable to take any evasive action.

More Sharia instructors at faculty

THE Dean of Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Kuwait University Dr Ajeel Al Nashmi has said that the university has agreed to appoint a number of assistant instructors at the faculty. He added that they will receive scholarships to pursue their higher studies abroad this year. They will specialise in different majors needed by the faculty. He added that the faculty completed scientific curricula and programmes for Masters degree in three majors of the faculty. These programmes will be evaluated by a number of professors from outside Kuwait. He added that studies of master degree are expected to start next year.

Dr Nashmi pointed out that Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies can protect society from invasion of strange ideologies that usually come with people who receive their information about Islam from reading books only. The establishment of a specialised faculty for Sharia allows students to get their Islamic culture from the proper place and source. He added that ministries and departments of the state need specialists in Islamic Sharia like Education Ministry, Justice Ministry and Ministry of Waqaf, he said.

Dr Nashmi pointed out that graduates of the faculty do not face serious problems. Suffering of these graduates is a natural question for graduates of theoretical faculties. He added that local media enlarged the suffering and problems of graduates of the faculty. He added that many ministries and government departments are studying to solve these

problems and lift the suffering of graduates of the faculty. Results of this question will be announced shortly. He added that headmasters of schools praised teachers who graduated from the faculty.

On the other hand, the Dean of Faculty of Science Dr Adnan Al Aqeel, has said that faculty built a lab for animal cells culture according to latest methods and specifications. The lab will be used in research on cancer, and general engineering. The lab will follow the biology department. He added that another lab for plant cells culture will also be built in the faculty. University has agreed to offer a new major of marine biology in the beginning of present academic year. The faculty is also studying to establish other majors like applied chemistry and partial biology. He added that reports of visiting professors showed that faculty can offer Ph.D. programmes in maths, physics and chemistry. He added that these programmes are expected to be offered very soon after putting special chairs and restrictions by the Faculty of Higher Studies.

Dr Aqeel pointed out that the faculty has built two new buildings to be added to its buildings this year the first is the classrooms project which consists of 26 classrooms with a capacity of 45 to 100 students each. The second project was the addition of a floor to the administration building of the faculty that consists of 205 offices and 8 meeting halls. These buildings increased the total capacity of the faculty to 3,500 students beside 400 students in higher studies programmes, he said.

29,253 visit visas issued in 4 months: statistics

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Interior's Immigration Department during the period from 1.1.1990 up to 30.4.1990, issued a total of 29,253 visit visas, a local daily quoted the last statistics issued by the department as saying.

It added that the last four months witnessed considerable increase in the number of visit visas compared to the same period last year, 23,094 visit visas.

Meanwhile, the daily learnt that the immigration departments at the country's Governorates had performed about 75,782 transactions last month including 6,916 no objection certificates, 16,618 visit visas and 1,100 departure permissions while the balance ranged between residence renewal, temporary residence and details adjustment.

Red water still being treated: MEW

THE undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity and Water Abdullah Al Munayes, was quoted as saying that the ministry was paying special concern to discoloration of water.

In an interview with a local daily, the official confirmed that the ministry spared no efforts to eradicate this problem, clarifying that the ministry has set up the necessary units throughout the country for treating distilled water. The first unit had been set up for treating water from Al Shuwaikh distilled station which supplies water to the areas situated between the first ring road and the third ring road including Kuwait City.

He clarified that a questionnaire had been conducted by the ministry which indicated that about 67 per cent of people living in some areas had noted the considerable change in the drinking water while in some other areas the percentage has increased to 87 per cent.

He added that the ministry is going ahead with treating water produced by Doha Station and another contract is being signed with a specialised company for treating water produced by Al Zour Water Supply Station. The commissioning of these two projects, will circumvent the discoloration phenomenon, Munayes said.

Meanwhile, the official was quoted as confirming that the preliminary phases for studying the water supply project from Iraq to Kuwait are being finalised and the ministry is in touch with some consulting bureaus to prepare the necessary designs of this project in co-operation with local bureaus.

He denied that the local underground water is being depleted clarifying that current sources were giving about 100 million gallon per day.

He added that the ministry is planning to expand the water supply network in the country, adding that the pertinent plan aims surmounting of the water tanks phenomenon in the country.

MPH sets up new drug prices

A JOINT committee set up by the Public Health Ministry and the union of drugs importers (private sector) is putting the final touches for the new prices of drugs at private pharmacies.

According to local and international statistics Kuwait imports about \$60 million of drugs from different sources every year. 30 per cent of this amount is imported by private pharmacies and 70 per cent by the government sector. The \$18 million drugs imported and sold by private pharmacies to the public are estimated at KD 9,343,550. The individual spendings on drugs reach only KD 4,620 a year (385 fils a month). The drugs produced by the Kuwaiti Company for Medicine Industries are valued at \$10 million a year.

Palestinians deprived of right to health: Rifai

43rd session of WHA

GEVEVA, May 12, (Kuna): The head of the Kuwaiti delegation, Dr A. Al Rifai, Secretary General of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisation, observed yesterday at the 43rd session of the World Health Assembly (WHA), that the challenge of the intifada was known worldwide. He appealed to WHO to condemn the inhuman practices of the Israeli occupying forces.

Dr Al Rifai stated that the Palestinian people, who are 'suffering barbaric occupation, are being deprived of their rights to health.'

The Kuwaiti official asked the WHO to ensure that health assistance reaches the people of Palestine through their legitimate representative. He also appealed for humanitarian assistance to Lebanon.

Dr Rifai commended the role of WHO in the last 42 years through fruitful co-operation with national authorities to eradicate a number of diseases and improve the health conditions of millions of people.

He pointed out, however, that the deteriorating world economic situation, especially in third world countries, coupled with a fall in food production and damage to the environment, had harmful effects on the health of people worldwide. He described the resulting situation as one of 'politics, malnutrition, and famine.'

He underlined the role of WHO in providing assistance to member countries to upgrade their health programmes with the optimum use of resources. Health information, he stressed, played a crucial role.

Achievements
Commenting on some of the achievements of Kuwait in the field of health, Dr Rifai observed that there had been a significant fall in infant and maternal mortality rates.

Kuwait was also engaged in increasing co-operation with other Gulf states in a campaign against tobacco and a ban against producing tobacco in the region.

Emphasis was being given on training of health professionals and administrative staff. Priority to research and an assessment of health delivery was also being done, he added.

Two separate national committees had been set up — on environment and AIDS. And, Kuwait was among the first countries to ban sale or purchase of human organs. Dr Rifai also noted that the provision of health services in Kuwait was free of charge at all levels.

Palestine yesterday called on WHA to realise the urgency of setting up an adequate health authority to look after the deteriorating health conditions of the Palestinian people in the territories occupied by Israel.

The head of the Palestinian delegation, Dr Fathi Arafat told the 167-member assembly that there were no primary health programmes in the occupied territories, nor any training of health workers. Provisions for physical and mental health were equally absent.

Emphasising the need for adequate health services to reduce the suffering of the Palestinian people, Dr Arafat noted that the Israeli occupying force was putting obstacles in every possible way — by putting pres-

sure on doctors and nurses, and even health workers were under attack.

He said it was not essential to recount details of thousands of Palestinians who have been wounded, hundreds imprisoned and as many who have faced martyrdom, and the tortures being inflicted — under the tyranny of Israeli colonialism.

Since 43 years, Dr Arafat said, the Palestinian people had benefited from thousands of agencies and friendly countries but the channeling of health assistance was a serious problem.

'Is it not just to request an adequate health authority. Or would that be seen as an obstacle to the serene working of the World Health Organisation,' Dr Arafat questioned.

He emphasised the need for a health authority to plan, co-ordinate and administer health programmes. Without such an authority, it would be difficult to safeguard the health of the Palestinian people, in the light of objective of 'Health For All' and in an era of interdependence, Dr Arafat added.

Earlier in his address, on behalf of the people of the State of Palestine, Dr Arafat paid tributes to the independence of Namibia and on its becoming a full member of the World Health Organisation. The process confirmed that the fight against racial discrimination inevitably led to the independence of the suffering people, he said.

The people of Palestine, too, were going through a very difficult period. 'The heroic people of Palestine are following the path of struggle and paying a heavy price for it. Children, generations and generations will continue (this fight) until their goal (of liberation) is achieved,' Dr Arafat stressed.

'No pressure on earth will be able to suppress this (struggle),' he added.

Dr Arafat also informed the assembly that the bouses of the Palestinian citizens were being destroyed to make way for Jewish emigration. This went against Geneva conventions and other accords and the tenets of human rights.

The Palestinian delegation called for placing health issues in a proper perspective devoid of political connotations. 'We are told this is possible only when peace reigns in the region. We say health should be placed in the proper framework. Who is going to deal with the health of our children suffering under Israeli occupation.'

'We have tried to set up the necessary institutions,' Dr Arafat noted. He added that work done to promote the health of the Palestinian people would also help the process of achieving durable peace, which the Israeli occupation was making extremely difficult to achieve.

Syria's Minister of Health, Dr I. Chatty, denounced Israel's 'harsh' repression against innocent Palestinian children who have been struggling to achieve dignity and pride.

'The Palestinian children have relinquished their right to a happy childhood to become fighters and martyrs... the breaking of limbs and murder will only increase their attachment to their land and soil,' he pointed out.

On behalf of Syria, Chatty called for the restoration of all the rights of the Arab Palestin-

nian people, including its right to reacquire its soil and homeland, and the right to self-determination.

The Syrian health minister noted that his country actively supports any joint Arab effort, and stands behind any Arab consensus move.

Chatty drew attention to the social and health impact of increased settlement of the occupied territories. 'We call on the organisation to continue its efforts in improving the health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied territories, South Lebanon, Gaza, and Golan.'

Concern
Speaking about the health situation within Syria, Chatty noted that the health welfare of citizens in his country was a major concern to authorities since health is a right of every citizen.

He observed that training is mandatory for all students after the intermediary school level. Moreover, in universities there are some 11,000 medical students, 1,500 studying pharmacy, and 3,000 nursing students.

Quality of health has also improved considerably in Syria. According to Chatty, mortality rates decreased from 17 per 1000 inhabitants to 8 per 1000 and the average age increased from 52 to 64.

Chatty emphasised that the quality of medical institutions and technology in developing countries was 'far below what it should be', and called upon WHO to redress this unacceptable situation.

Dr M. Al Zaban, Minister of Health of Jordan said that while health is a sacred right of all humans, efforts in his country were being impeded by occupation and wars which are going on, especially in the Near East. He recalled the hardships that the Arab people of Palestine are living through and the fact that the occupying authorities reject the international political will that states that the rights of the Palestinian people have to be restored.

'The Palestinian people have been living a tragedy for nearly half a century in harsh conditions of disease and poverty.' In addition, the original inhabitants are being displaced in order to make room for newcomers whose interests are protected by the occupying authorities,' Dr Zaban added.

The Jordanian health minister appealed to all countries of the world to stand steadfast behind justice and right before it is too late. 'Justice if it comes too late, cannot be distinguished from injustice.'

Dr Zaban indicated that despite economic difficulties that are directly affecting his country, Jordan is sparing no effort to achieve better health coverage for its citizens.

Commenting on the state of primary health care, he noted that it was not being fully implemented worldwide. One of the main reasons for this was the weak participation of some countries, especially the wealthy ones, Dr Zaban maintained.

All countries share a common responsibility to ensure primary health care, both within their countries and abroad, for 'diseases and epidemics do not need a visa to enter a country.'



PPC elections

The election for the Pakistan People's Club (PPC), Kuwait, will be held soon under the auspices of the Pakistan Embassy in Kuwait.

This was disclosed by Haji Alzal Noor, the founder president of the club after having a meeting with the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Sahebzada Yaqub Khan, last week at Kuwait Airport, while he was in the transit lounge enroute to Pakistan, after visiting New York.

According to Noor, the Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait, Zahid Saeed who was also present during Khan's short stopover, said that there was a precedent of holding community elections in Kuwait. The Bangladesh Community Club held its election in the premises of Bangladesh Embassy sometime back.

Noor, in a statement said that the Pakistan foreign minister agreed to the proposal and hoped that such a step would result in unity and end factional feuds, and stressed that the community should be represented by one sole organisation, reflecting Pakistan's national and international interest.

Noor said that after taking necessary measures, election rules and date will be announced in a few days.

Sheikh Saad to visit Britain soon

Kuwait-UK relations deep-rooted: envoy

KUWAIT, May 12, (Kuna) British Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Weston today hailed the expected visit of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah to Britain.

In an interview with a local daily, Weston said that his country is looking forward to the visit, (whose date has not been set yet.) to Britain as soon as Sheikh Saad concludes his obligations.

Kuwait-British relations are deep-

rooted be it in the official or private sectors, the diplomat told the paper.

Official visits are exchanged between the two countries continuously, Weston said, adding that Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah last month visited London and that British Minister of Energy is expected to arrive here this week.

Britain wishes that its relations with Iraq and other countries in the region to be good, adding that the steps implemented by Britain after the beheading of British

spy Bazozi were the least that could be done amid pressures faced by the government to sever relations with Baghdad.

Tension

Any country in the Middle East that possesses strategic weapons with a destructive method will definitely increase tension and threaten peace in the region, the ambassador stressed.

Asked about the British viewpoint on

Israel's possession of chemical weapons, he said that his country opposes the spread of chemical weapons and calls on all countries in the Middle East to boycott and oppose this expansion.

In conclusion, Weston said that Britain hails the changes that occurred in the policy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation such as its acceptance of the UN Security Council Resolution 242 adding that contacts are under way between officials of the two sides to arrive at common stand.

Competitive prices at co-ops, say chairmen

Quality of goods assured

A GROUP of co-op board chairmen have said that co-ops offer commodities at prices far better than those offered for the same commodities by competitive popular markets, adding that the Kuwait Union of Co-operative Consumer Societies pricing committee carries out its responsibilities based on carefully conducted studies and with full awareness of going prices in the market.

They stressed that the co-ops, not only offered the best prices, but also ensure that the commodities are of the best quality. They added that even matches are available at co-ops at appropriate prices and quality.

Saad Mulaq Al Rajhi, board chairman of the Farwaniya co-ops, says that it is very difficult for a man working at a co-op to buy his supplies from the co-op and yet recommends others not to follow suit, even if this man happens to be the board chairman of that co-op whose prices he knows to be very high.

He said that it is only through consistent co-ordination with the Kuwait Union of Co-operative Consumer Societies will it be possible to keep prices of commodities moderate and acceptable to clients.

He said that, as board chairman of a co-op, he recommends all people whether shareholders or others to obtain their supplies from the co-op which offer very appropriate prices.

He lauded the constant effort exerted by the union's pricing committee to peg prices and arrange for collective supply purchases, adding that this helped keep prices under control.

He said that the Khatano co-op also pays great attention to offering clients quality commodities with long validity, particularly with respect to foodstuffs. He pointed out that it is recommended that the union's pricing committee considered the high prices of certain items and devise solutions to reduce these prices, which could be achieved through following up the fluctuation of prices at the internal and external levels. Opening the chance for competition among supply sources within the framework of approved set of constraints will also help, he said.

He severely criticised the practices of some local newspapers which lash out strongly at the policies of some local co-ops, stressing that it is far more positively effective to open up the chance for finding proper solutions to problems through direct discussion and dialogues conducted with experienced people.

Hilal Al Mutairi, chairman of the board at the Kifan Co-op, reiterated the basic role of the co-ops in serving the consumer. He gets all his supplies from the co-ops, he said, and that he paid KD2.150 last year for supplies from the co-op, at an average of KD190 per month.

Meanwhile, the board member of the Kuwait Union of Co-

operative Consumer Societies and member of the union's pricing committee Salah Al Rumaih said that the so-called difference in prices between one co-op and another is non-existent among the basic commodities of the same source and quality.

He told a local daily that the frequent mention of price variations or increases experienced by consumers everywhere is the result of growing co-operative awareness among consumers, especially after the lapse of over a quarter of a century for the establishment of the co-operative in the country.

He said that another reason for this is that price increases at one end are often not accompanied by appropriate increases in the income of the individual at the other end, which makes the individual's awareness of this phenomenon extremely sharp.

He stressed that it is not true that the prices of basic commodities of the same quality varied considerably, as the related profitability percentages is determined by decisions endorsed by the union and honoured by all societies.

He said that all the union's supply purchases are paid for in terms of documentary letters of credit subject to fluctuations of world exchange rates of the currency of the country of origin, which is the main reason for the noticed change of prices on certain commodities.

He added that another reason for the change of prices is the customs duties levied on certain items, which changed from one item to another. Let alone the effects of the Iran-Iraq war and the insurance rates collected as a result.

Lebanon assistance continues

BEIRUT, May 12, (Kuna) A senior Kuwaiti official today emphasised that assistance offered by his country to Lebanon is not limited to any particular area and indicated that the assistance has been uninterrupted for the past three years.

Sheikh Mubarak Saud Al Sabah, representative of H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's office who is supervising Kuwaiti aid to Lebanon, assured in statements published today by Al-Fawa newspaper that Kuwaiti relief is being distributed through the Lebanese government higher relief commission.

Though Kuwait is not involved in direct distribution of assistance, which he described as purely an internal Lebanese affair, the official expressed the wish that distribution should be fair and include all people and parts of Lebanon.

Sheikh Mubarak expressed Kuwait's readiness to finance development and reconstruction projects in Lebanon, but noted that efforts to rebuild the country's infrastructure, destroyed by 15 years of factional war, require prevalence of peace and stability.

He hoped Lebanon would soon reach peace and open a way for Arab assistance to rebuild the country.

Recounting previous lack of co-ordination and misconception in distribution of Kuwaiti relief aid to Lebanon, the official said a decision has been taken only to deliver assistance to the governmental higher relief commission which, with the help of local organisations and committees, will distribute it to those in need.

Swedish envoy

KUWAIT, May 12, (Kuna): Public Works Minister Abdel Rahman Al Houti today received Sweden's Ambassador to Kuwait Ingolf Kjesow.

The two officials discussed issues of mutual interest and means of boosting bilateral relations.



Tents up

Several candidates for the elections of the National Council in remote areas began discussions to appoint a date for the sub-elections to reduce the number of candidates in each area. The sub-elections might be held in the open air (tents) or at a school. A number of candidates began their campaign to attract supporters by installing tents and boards at different roads. The Interior Ministry and Municipality have provided facilities to candidates to install their tents. The candidates now number 561 citizens after the withdrawal of six candidates last Thursday. The elections department has begun allocating sites to about 120 election committees.

Temporary residence permits being granted

Transfers facilitated

THE residence law for foreigners permits the transfer of the visa to a temporary residence permit for a maximum period of one year in some cases at the discretion of the Interior Ministry.

Elucidating the director of Hawalli Immigration Department, Col Mohammed Al Hieji said that individuals who hold this temporary residence status whether for a month or year can leave and return to Kuwait innumerable times within this period without the need for applying for a new entry visa.

The official disclosed that the Minister of Interior, Sheikh

Salem Al Sabah issued instructions to facilitate the transfer of residence permits from the private sector to the public sector of those employees who have been serving in the public sector for several years.

He further said that expatriate women who are sponsored by their fathers can transfer their residence permits to the sponsorship of their husbands after marriage — irrespective of the salary of their husbands. However, he said that those expatriates who wish to bring their wives to Kuwait would need to draw a salary of KD450 if they

are employed in the public sector and KD650 if they are with the private sector.

Meanwhile, the assistant undersecretary of Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Affairs Mohammed Shaban Al Thamer said that ministry issued 100,000 work permits during the first quarter of this year at the five governorates. He added that 18,434 of these permits were entry permits for work; 16,301 permits of employment for the first time; 49,366 renewed permits and 1,338 transferred permits. He added that ministry cancelled and transferred 4,741 cases and cancelled 9,393 permits.

GCC role

Balance of power ensured: Bishara

AMMAN, May 12, (Kuna): The six-member Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) had played a vital role in the balance of power in the Gulf region, the world's most sensitive area, says GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara.

Commenting on Arab security during 1989, presented last night to the annual meeting of the secretariat-general of the Arab forum for thought, Bishara said he felt the importance of this role from the appreciation shown by decision-makers and representatives of public opinion at the American and European arenas.

Bishara recalled that the recent meeting in the Omani capital of Muscat which brought together the foreign ministers of the GCC and the 12-nation European Economic Community was an indication to the political, economic and financial weight of the GCC.

He underscored the need to open channels of dialogue with world countries and before that with neighbouring ones, noting that such dialogue would not materialise had it not been for the strategic, political and security dimensions of the GCC which put in the focus of international limelight.

"By virtue of the wisdom and credibility of the GCC, Iran had initiated contacts with its member states after its rejection of the strategic dimension of the council in the balance of power in the region," said Bishara.

The Arab forum for thought is a gathering of intellectuals from various Arab countries.

Planning meet

KUWAIT, May 12, (Kuna): Board of trustees of the Arab Institute for Planning held its second meeting here today.

The meeting, was chaired by Minister of Planning Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, and attended by representatives of member governments Director-General of Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, Abdullah Al Hamad, Director-General of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Bader Al Homaishi and permanent representative of the UN development programme.

Restructured UAE industrial committee holds meeting

DUBAI, May 12, (Opecna): The newly-restructured United Arab Emirates Industrial Consultative Committee held its first meeting here during which reports on the country's industrial activities were reviewed.

Chaired by Ahmed Humaid Al Tayer, Minister of State for Financial and Industrial Affairs, on behalf of Finance and Industry Minister Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the committee discussed obstacles preventing industrial development and how best to overcome them.

It recommended conducting a comprehensive industrial survey in co-operation with the ministries of planning and finance and industry aimed at updating data in the industrial sector.

The delegates discussed a number of other topics including the manufacture of ready-made garments and effective participation by ministries in acquiring businessmen and entrepreneurs of investment opportunities.

Concerning applications for setting up new industrial projects, the committee asked the Finance and Industry Ministry to prepare a comprehensive report on the economic and technical feasibility of schemes proposed.

Pollution threatens marine life off Oman coasts: scientist

10 week survey

MUSCAT, May 12, (AP): The leader of an international team of scientists mapping Oman's strategic northern Musandam Coast warned today that extensive marine pollution threatened the peninsula's fragile ecosystems.

A 10-week survey completed earlier this week had revealed substantial underwater and coastal pollution caused by oil spills, flotsam and trash washed up on beaches, said Dr Rod Salm, head of the government-sponsored study, in a statement to the Associated Press.

Musandam controls the 60 kilometre (37 miles) long Strait of Hormuz separating Oman from Iran. One sixth of the world's oil supply passes through the strait from the oil-rich Arab Gulf states.

Salm, 42, a Muscat-based marine biologist, blamed elements of the pollution build-up on small boat traders motoring across the strait from Iran, and from Pakistan, to the Gulf ports of Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah.

He said they left a trail of wreckage and litter along the peninsula's inlet and sandy beach nesting grounds where globally important species of endangered Hawksbill and Green Turtles lay their eggs.

The 15,000-square-kilometre (5,790 square mile) mountain peninsula juts into the Gulf, separating it from the Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean. The province is divided from the rest of Oman by a 70 kilometre (44-mile) strip of territory controlled by the United Arab Emirates.

The mapping survey covered 650 kilometres (406 miles) of coastline from Tibat on the western Musandam coast bordering the UAE in the Gulf, to Dha Al Bayah on the peninsula's eastern border

with the UAE in the Gulf of Oman.

"We are extremely concerned at the huge extent of the pollution in evidence," said Salm, 42, from Baltimore, Maryland, who is on attachment from the international union for the conservation of nature and natural resources.

"It has sacrificed the usefulness of the beaches for fishermen and pre-empted government development plans for recreation and tourism."

Complaining in particular about the Iranian and Pakistani small-boat traders, he said they "leave all sorts of rubbish behind them." He listed sighted smashed bulbs, broken up cargoes, torn clothing, cartons of cigarettes and tin cans.

"Some pollution is possibly a direct result of the tanker war but we have no real 'before and after' picture because this is the first time the coast has been mapped in this way," said Salm.

"What we do know is that there is significant damage to the underwater environment, particularly to the coral communities. These are being smothered by loose nets and ropes and concentrated flotsam."

The tanker war was an offshoot of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war during which more than 500 tankers, freighters and other vessels of different flags were caught in the hostilities.

Salm said that a mysterious infestation of crown of thorns starfish observed in eastern survey areas meanwhile caused further damage to at least 70 per cent of the coral communities mapped by the project team. The starfish had eaten living coral tissue, causing reefs to hollow out and collapse into wastelands of dead coral.

Municipal drivers will not be made redundant

THE director of transportation and maintenance department at Kuwait Municipality Abdul Razzak Al Qudabi has denied any intention to dismiss drivers working in the municipality due to dependence on rented cars.

The municipality owns these drivers to drive and run the 1,183 vehicles and machines at municipality, the official said and added that using rented cars and vehicles reduced costs and efforts of repairing and maintaining vehicles.

Renting small cars saves money because costs of running a car owned by municipality reach KD300 to 350 a month including 200 dinars as payment of driver.

Qudabi said that the municipality contracted with several companies to rent 239 cars beside 379 vehicles rented to follow up the cleanliness works and added that there are 500 technicians and mechanics working in the department beside about 1,000 drivers.

He commented that the Kuwait Public Transportation Company (KPTC) will offer the transportation and maintenance services for vehicles and cars of municipality.

Second foreign investors forum in Warsaw

THE Polish authorities with co-operation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and the world-wide known Ernst and Young — London are organising the Second Investors Forum for the promotion of Foreign Investments in Poland, which will be held at the Warsaw "Marriott" Hotel on 21-24 May, 1990.

Recent political and economic developments in Poland have induced fundamental changes in nearly all aspects of country's business system. In this new situation the Polish government has reaffirmed commitment to welcome foreign capital to participate actively in the restructuring and development of the country's economy. Foreign investors are provided with a number of incentives, including tax vacations, repatriation of profits and appropriate investment guarantees.

Kuwaiti businessmen are especially privileged by the recently signed agreement between the Republic of Poland and the State of Kuwait for the promotion and protection of investments, which creates favourable

atmosphere for economic co-operation, in particular in the field of investments.

The forum is meant not only to provide foreign investors with an insight into the mechanism and conditions of doing business in Poland but also to enable direct access to many profitable and diversified employment opportunities.

The Second Investors Forum for the Promotion of Foreign Investments in Poland will be a good opportunity for overseas business to take advantage of Polish economic potential and the skilled and relatively cheap labour available.

All Kuwaiti and other Gulf countries participants will be in Warsaw with special attention.

For further details about the Forum please contact Commercial Office of Polish Embassy P.O. Box 5066 Safat, 13051 Kuwait. Fax: 2524760, Tel: 2510355, 6).

**STUDY IN AUSTRALIA
IN 1990-91**

You can still enroll in Australian universities, schools and colleges this year.

Representatives of:

- Bond University
- Charles Sturt University
- Wollongong University
- University College of Central Queensland
- Holmes Business College
- New South Wales State High Schools

are visiting Kuwait to offer enrolment for fee-paying students in

- Business Studies (inc. MBA)
- Computing
- Engineering
- Law
- High School Programs
- Marketing
- Tourism and Travel
- Agriculture
- Health Sciences

and most other academic areas.

They will be staging a FREE SEMINAR at Meridien Hotel on 14 May 90 at 6:30 p.m. All members of the public are cordially invited to attend.

911 summer jobs available for youth

THE assistant undersecretary of Civil Service Commission Abdul Aziz Al Zaben has said that there are 911 work opportunities offered by 78 various establishments to students during the summer vacation. He added that CSC is co-ordinating with Kuwait University, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and Education Ministry to register names of students who want to work in summer and will be awarded work according to conditions of the CSC.

Students eligible to work during summer should not be registered in the summer session this year and should not expect to graduate during the next month. They also should not travel out of Kuwait between 1/7 and 31/8/90 and should abide by the work hours in places they are appointed. The official said that students of the university and authority will get KD100 a month for administrative jobs and KD150 for technical work.

The students of secondary schools will get KD75 a month for administrative and technical jobs. He added that students will meet shortage in staff that usually appears during summer and could gain valuable work experience, including earning some money.

He added that 1,337 work chances were available for students last year, but only 701 students registered to work last summer and hoped that number of working students will increase this summer.

For the second time in 1990 a delegation of Australian educational representatives is visiting the Middle East, travelling to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Dubai during the period 8 to 25 May.

The group comprises:

- Mr Leigh Hobbs of Bond University
- Mr Jim Pringle of Charles Sturt University
- Mr Eric Meadows of Wollongong University
- Mr John Wilkinson of the University College of Central Queensland
- Mr Steve Nagle of Holmes Business College
- Mr Graham Drayton of the New South Wales Department of Education

Some of the delegation — Messrs Hobbs, Drayton and Meadows — were in the Middle East in January, following earlier exploratory visits by Mr Hobbs.

Mr Hobbs, who has organised and led both groups through his company, Australian Education Abroad, said the purposes of the visits are:

- to learn more about education systems in the Middle East
- to explain the Australian system to government, industry and academic representatives in countries visited
- to offer enrolment in 1990 and courses for suitably qualified students who would like to study in Australia
- to establish relationships with schools, colleges and universities in the Middle East

Mr Hobbs said that the fact that his group this time consists of six representatives, including four (4) universities, demonstrates the growing interest by Australians in the Middle East region. It also reflects a genuine desire to open Australian study opportunities for people of the region. Institutions participating in May offer courses in all areas of study. Their quality is in all cases guaranteed and accredited by Australian Government and relevant professional bodies. Mr Hobbs said that Australia's lower costs (for both study and living) and a friendly and pleasant environment have already attracted large numbers of overseas students to Australian institutions.

The institutions present are:

- BOND UNIVERSITY**
Australia's first private university, specialising in Business, Law, Computing, Humanities and Science, and located on Queensland's Gold Coast.
- CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY**
A provincial university, located on three campuses in New South Wales (Wagga Wagga, Albury and Bathurst), specialising in Agriculture, Business, Health Sciences, Science, Computing and Creative Arts.
- WOLLONGONG UNIVERSITY**
A leading Australian university, located just south of Sydney, specialising in Science, Technology, all branches of Engineering, Computing and Biotechnology. Its reputation in these and other fields — including Business, Humanities and Creative Arts — has led to the enrolment of many overseas students.
- UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF CENTRAL QUEENSLAND**
Located in Rockhampton, UCCQ offers a broad range of courses in six different faculties — Business, Engineering, Applied Science, Nursing, Education, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Because it is a relatively small institution situated in a smaller city, students are assured of personal attention from staff, and ready access to equipment and facilities.
- HOLMES BUSINESS COLLEGE**
Australia's leading private business college, located in Melbourne, Australia's second largest city, and offering programmes in Business, Computing, Travel and Tourism and Marketing.
- NEW SOUTH WALES STATE HIGH SCHOOLS**
A network of several hundred schools run by the New South Wales Government. Courses prepare students for matriculation and entry into all Australian universities and overseas counterparts within high quality environments.

Mr Hobbs said that he and his colleagues hope to meet large numbers of parents and students and for this purpose have arranged free public seminars to be held at Meridien Hotel on 14 May '90 at 6:30 pm.

Enrolments can still be made for courses in 1990 due to the multiple dates of course commencement in all the institutions represented. Starting dates in 1990 include July and September, and in 1991, January, February, May, July and September.

Entry to Australian institutions requires qualifications very comparable with those applying in the USA and Britain.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NO race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem — Booker T. Washington.

Africa awakens
Leaders cave
in to demands

ABIDJAN, (Reuters): The foreign minister of Benin, first African country of the decade to adopt multi-party politics, made an unprecedented appearance on Ivory Coast television last week to bestow its best wishes on the latest to do so.

"I am sure Ivory Coast, in its wisdom will find answers to the problems it faces, for the good of Ivory Coast and the sub-region," said Foreign Minister Theophile Nata.

A day earlier Nata's remarks might not have been publicised at all. Multi-party politics was, until then an all but taboo subject in Ivory Coast's tightly controlled media.

But that changed overnight when Ivory Coast's ruling Democratic Party of Ivory Coast (PDCI-RDA) and its 84-year-old President Felix Houphouët-Boigny, in office since independence in 1960, endorsed multi-party politics.

Endangered

Houphouët-Boigny was the latest in a growing list of leaders who, caving in to demands for political pluralism, have made Africa's traditional strongmen and their one-party systems look as endangered as the continent's elephants.

Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, faced with growing opposition to his 25-year single-party authoritarian rule, announced last month that he would authorise three parties to contest elections in 1991.

Gabon's President Omar Bongo, in power for 23 years as head of a single-party state, has agreed to institute multi-party democracy and faces a presidential election in three years.

Benin's military President Mathieu Kérékou, unable to pay government salaries for months, gave up most of his powers to a new civilian government earlier this year and will have to stand for election next year.

Houphouët-Boigny, who always maintained one party — his own — was sufficient, faces the prospect of as many as a dozen parties vying for legal status.

But analysts say it is one thing to end single-party governance along Western lines.

"I don't think the democratic tradition of Mobutu is all that believable," said one Western diplomat. "... and I don't think the parties in Ivory Coast have any illusion either."

Africa is not a place where democratic roots run deep.

Parties

African leaders who have agreed to additional parties still wield enormous power. Parties springing up to challenge them are underfunded, poorly organised, lack access to state-controlled media and may not have a broad power base.

"We have to be careful that (Ivory Coast's ruling party) the PDCI does not become even more powerful in the next elections," said Bernard Zadi, an author and professor who heads one of the country's new opposition parties.

The continent is littered with examples of countries which have tried democracy and have failed or created a pale image of what would pass for democracy in the West.

Senegal has had multi-party politics since independence in 1960 but only one party, the socialists, headed first by Leopold Senghor and now by Abdou Diouf, has ever ruled.

The official daily Le Soleil in a recent editorial said Senegalese democracy "has gone past the infancy stage and even mid-life crisis... and to assert Benin and Gabon have gone beyond Senegal... is foolish."

But some Senegalese think their country is being let behind.

"Newcomers to democracy such as Benin and Gabon can boast more significant progress and are outshining Senegal," said a satirical newspaper, Le Café Libéré.

"Democracy implies a possibility of political changeover through fair elections," said the independent Sud-Hebdo. "A multi-party system on its own cannot suffice."

Nigeria

Nigeria, the most populous black African state with 110 million people, has swung wildly back and forth between military and civilian rule for its three decades of independence.

Military President Ibrahim Babangida has promised a reform to civilian democratic rule within the next two years, but he was nearly toppled by a rival military faction late last month.

Political analysts think the April 22 coup attempt puts even more pressure on Babangida to stick to his timetable or even speed it up. But it also exacerbated age-old divisions between the Muslim-dominated north and Christians in the south, between civilians and military and among various powerful tribes, which make it all that much harder for democracy to work.

Many political analysts in the region think it is unfair to compare what is happening in Africa, much of which gained its independence only 30 years ago, with the collapse of totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe or even Asia.

"It is not a racist comment, but in the traditional African mentality there cannot be two chiefs," one diplomat said, explaining why Western traditions of opposition and protest may be frowned upon in Africa.

Still, the momentum for change has begun, fired partly by discontent hred by the continent's debt-burdened and stagnant economies, and by the rising educational level of Africans, particularly in wealthier countries such as Ivory Coast and Gabon.

"There are a lot of people, especially in the cities, who read overseas newspapers and listen to the radio," a diplomat said. "You cannot hide from them what is going on."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1503 — Spanish forces defeat French army and enter Naples, Italy.

1619 — Execution of Johann van Oldenbarnevelt for treason leaves Maurice Prince of Orange supreme in Holland.

1779 — France abandons Corsica, West Africa, to Britain.

1809 — French army under Napoleon Bonaparte takes Vienna.

1871 — Law of guarantees in Italy declares Pope's person inviolable and allows him possession of the Vatican.

1888 — Serfdom is abolished in Brazil.

1962 — Gunman tries to assassinate Indonesia's president Sukarno, but Sukarno escapes injury.

1968 — Peace negotiations officially open in Paris between United States and North Vietnam.

1969 — More than 100 people are reported killed in race riots in Malaysian city of Kuala Lumpur.

1970 — Israel attacks Lebanon to try wiping out guerrilla bases.

1973 — Nineteen nations begin talks in Vienna aimed at cutting number of troops in Europe.

1975 — US Marines, warships and planes are placed on alert in Western Pacific after seizure of US merchant ship Mayaguez by Cambodians.

1975 — US Marines, warships and planes are placed on alert in Western Pacific after seizure of US merchant ship Mayaguez by Cambodians.

1988 — Riot police storm sacred Temple Mount complex in occupied Jerusalem and fire rubber bullets at Muslim worshippers.

Warm-up in US-New Zealand ties
Groundwork laid for co-operation

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, (WNL): "We've always had good relations. We share almost everything in common," said Mike Moore, New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He had just returned home from a recent visit to the United States, where he met with Secretary of State James Baker.

The meeting signalled an improvement in US-New Zealand relations as both countries laid the groundwork to co-operate in areas of common interest: the war on drugs, the progressive removal of international trade barriers and environmental issues such as the handling of driftnet fishing.

Although Moore had met with US Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter and Trade Representative Carla Hills on previous occasions, the meeting with Secretary Baker was the first formal government-to-government meeting since 1984. In that year the Labour government of former Prime Minister David Lange banned all nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed vessels from New Zealand's ports.

The US retaliated by suspending defence, military and intelligence sharing agreements between the two countries, which led to the de facto breakup of the 33-year-old Anzus Pact, signed by Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Under that security pact, any one of the three members under threat could turn to the other two for support. New Zealand's ban raised the eyebrows of other traditional allies, such as Great Britain and France, and may have accounted for Britain's lack of support for New Zealand after French security agents sank the "Rainbow Warrior," a vessel of the environmental movement Greenpeace, in Auckland Harbour in July 1985.

"New Zealand's policy was portrayed by some as an anti-American policy — which it is not! It is anti-nuclear and not anti-American," says the 41-year-old minister, who is probably one of the Labour Party's most popular leaders.

After more than a half-dozen trips to the states, Moore prefers to stress the two countries' common interests. One example of the new understanding between the two nations is a recent United Nations vote, when New Zealand abstained from condemning the US intervention in Panama.

Assistance

Other areas where the US and New Zealand now "agree" are in providing assistance to the new democracies of Eastern Europe, supporting measures to assist in the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa, working toward global trade liberalisation through proposed extensions of the 1947 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and co-operating with the Asian Pacific Economic Conference.

"We want to demonstrate that we are not an isolationist country, but rather are moved by the great concerns of the world. We want to pay our fair share in international events," Moore adds. He himself is well known at home for energetically rubbing shoulders with leaders from Japan, Australia, Hungary and the US.

New Zealand, as a member of the British Commonwealth, has demonstrated that concern in the past by providing support to the United Nations' peacekeeping forces in Cyprus, Malaysia, Iraq, Iran, the Sinai and Namibia. The country's training personnel to clear mines in Afghanistan and might eventually assist Cambodia. "There aren't many nations with as many people on the ground as New Zealand," says Moore.

Closer to home, New Zealand has strong colonial ties, dating back to Captain James Cook's discoveries in the 1770s — and hence post-colonial responsibilities — to the countries of Western



Mike Moore... atresses common goal, (WNL)

Samoa, Tonga, the Tokelau Islands, Niue and the Cook Islands. Those responsibilities are hard to fulfil in areas such as the Cook Islands, which consist of 15 islands spread over 240 square kilometres (92 square miles) and lost in some 2.2 million square kilometres (850,000 square miles) of ocean; or in Niue, a tiny island of 10 square kilometres (4 square miles) whose 1,700 citizens hold New Zealand citizenship and passports. Many of the islands suffer from overpopulation and fragile economies.

"Don't forget that there are more Niueans and Cook Islanders in New Zealand than there are at home," Moore notes. Luckily, strong regional ties are reinforced by the cultural and linguistic similarities among the Polynesian populations. For example, New Zealand's original islanders and the Cook Islanders are both Maoris, while Niueans are closely related to Tongans and Samoans.

Policy

"Economically and politically, these islands should be as unstable as some of the Caribbean islands," says Moore. "But they are not, due to New Zealand's aggressive policy on aid, trade, training, building infrastructure and immigration. It's all part of what you ought to do because you're a mature and developed country. It's the price you pay for stability in the area."

Australia has a similar policy toward Melanesia, which consists in part of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu (formerly new Hebrides), Tuvalu (formerly Ellice Islands) and Kiribati (formerly Gilbert Islands).

The tie-in with US interests in the South Pacific is on the driftnet fishing issue — a kind of strip-mining

of the ocean using nets that are up to 48 kilometres (30 miles) long and hang 15 metres (50 feet) down. The technique has come to be known as the wall of death. New Zealand is taking a leading role as an environmentalist nation by defending long-term regional interests at the risk of enraging its economically powerful Asian neighbours: Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, all of whom practice driftnet fishing.

"On our own, we are perhaps not strong enough to defeat driftnet fishing, but by bringing our influence to bear with the US and Australia to co-sponsor a resolution in the United Nations calling for a complete ban of their use on high seas, we hope to stop this wall of death," Moore says. New Zealand has already banned the use of such nets in its waters and denies access to driftnet-equipped vessels to its ports and resupply ships.

Drugs

In his meetings in the US Moore was struck by the importance of the drug issue. "It's an area where we can get on with the United States, and one that requires a multinational solution," he says. "If President Bush says it's the number one domestic problem, he means it. New Zealand is a small market, but it's big enough for the drug trade. A hand of plastic kitchenware and Kentucky Fried Chicken, maybe it will be big enough for the drug industry if they are obliged to start to look for softer places to sell drugs." Moore has promised to send specialists to Thailand, a major route for heroin produced in Burma and Laos, and to convene an ad hoc committee to find ways to co-operate with the US on the war on drugs.

Nato heaps pressure on Gorbachev

KANANASKIS, Canada, (Reuters): Nato is putting pressure on Moscow over German unification and nuclear weapons, despite fears in the alliance that Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev could be swamped by domestic problems.

Nato defence ministers ended a two-day meeting in this Canadian ski resort by calling on Moscow to slash its huge arsenal of short-range nuclear weapons and by pledging that the Western alliance would keep its own nuclear arms in Europe.

Secretary-general Manfred Woerner said the alliance would reject a Soviet offer to put on ice the question of a united Germany's military status while unification proceeds.

Hopes

Those twin statements dashed Moscow's hopes that unilateral withdrawal of nuclear weapons in Europe was imminent and that Nato might suspend demand that a single Germany should be a member of the 16-nation alliance.

But, at the same time, there are growing fears within Nato that Gorbachev may not be able to cope with the problems of the crippled Soviet economy and unrest in the Baltic republics and Transcaucasia.

US Secretary of State James Baker told a meeting of Nato foreign ministers in Brussels last week that Soviet policy was effectively "on hold" because of the problems.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told the same meeting that the situation was "very serious indeed" and that the Communist Party's authority was on the verge of collapse.

Nato sources say there is also growing evidence that the Soviet military, angered by a loss of prestige and the prospect of huge arms cuts, has been putting pressure on Gorbachev to slow the pace of arms control.

Woerner referred indirectly to these concerns at the end of the defence ministers' meeting, saying: "We have of course to keep in mind that the future is not secure. There are still risks and instability."

The greatest worry within the alliance is that Gorbachev will be ousted, perhaps to be replaced by a much more hardline regime bent on reversing

reforms.

But Nato sources say the alliance cannot afford to ease pressure to achieve arms control agreements this year that would drastically cut both allied and Soviet nuclear and conventional forces in Europe.

However, Nato handed some crumbs of hope to Gorbachev last week by approving a US decision not to modernise battlefield nuclear weapons — the

ageing Lance missiles and nuclear artillery — and to open talks on short-range nuclear weapons with Moscow once an agreement on conventional forces is signed.

The defence minister meeting here under the auspices of the Nuclear Planning Group (NPG) discussed the possibility of further cuts but took no decisions.



Letters to the editor

India Festival

SIR: The curtain has finally fallen on the India Festival. Each programme has been applauded, the reactions varying from "excellent" to "could do better". However, we would like to pay a special tribute to all those behind the scenes, people whom we didn't see but whose hard work and purpose made what we saw, possible. Right from the controversial bread of the "organizer" to the "curtain-man", hats off to all of you out there, who brought to us the brilliance and sheer entertainment of each programme.

Also, a sincere thank you to all family members, who stood by in silent support of the participants, not to forget the patient wife who co-operated with her busy husband or the chauffeur/husbands who drove their

wives tirelessly through the entire gamut of rehearsals. However small the task performed, we thank you for it, we thank you for nine unforgettable days, when the spirit of India touched frenzied proportions. Keep it up!

Ashima Khosla & Sangeeta Jamwal, Safat.

Well done

SIR: Sister Mita Ponzio is doing a very good job by having written befitting replies whenever misleading items appear in the press about Islam. Any Muslim who has reasonable knowledge about Islam has no second opinion about her views which appeared in your column on April 3, 1990.

Similarly, her letters regarding women's role in Islam, about Jinnas, on previous occasions are very good ones.

From her writings one can understand that she has very good knowledge about Islam. She can serve still more to the society especially, to the Muslim women. I hope she will do what has to be done in this regard.

S. Mohammed, Fahaheel.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Tonga

Armed agitation
not discounted

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga, (Reuters): "Presently we are going through some sort of political tension but there is no danger of an armed revolution. Do not be afraid."

Any casual visitor to Tonga would be amazed that its Roman Catholic leader Bishop P. A. Telisio, Finau, could even contemplate armed revolution in the sleepy Pacific nation.

But he wrote these words in the Catholic monthly Taumu'a Lela after an extraordinary month in which the police minister denied he was plotting a coup and Tonga's ageing monarch accused the bishop of being a Marxist.

Tanks

Tongans stress that tanks are not about to rumble through the streets of Nuku'alofa, capital of the South Pacific's last kingdom. They also avoid comparisons with Nepal, where King Birendra was forced to surrender his absolute power last month after bloody pro-democracy riots.

But some Tongans are beginning to question the power wielded by 165 kg (365 pounds) king Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, his ministers and the nobility, power which the nation of 95,000 accepted without question only a few years ago.

"We're not saying we don't want a king," Finau told Reuters. "I'm sure people are very proud of their king, but with what kind of power."

Voters gave reformers a clean sweep in parliamentary elections last February, only a week after the king ruled out full-blooded democracy for Tonga. "At present Tonga is very stable but a move for change... would result in a coup d'état," the 71-year-old monarch told the news magazine Matangi Tonga.

Following the elections a wave of increasingly bizarre rumours swept the kingdom.

Rumours

Police Minister 'Akau'ola went on national radio in April to deny rumours that the police department planned to overthrow the monarchy in a coup financed from abroad. Four New Zealanders accused of spreading the rumours, all linked to a fundamentalist Christian group, were later expelled.

A few days later, the king, who has ruled Tonga for 25 years, accused Finau and leading People's Representative Akilisi Pohiva of being Marxists. Both vigorously denied the charge.

Finau said Tonga could not resist the democratic wave which had swept Eastern Europe and countries such as the Philippines and South Africa. "It's a world movement. It's coming to Tonga because Tonga is part of the world."

Change meant constitutional reform. "The Tongan constitution was a tremendous leap forward 115 years ago but not today. It's holding things up," he said.

Reformers have little power in Parliament. Under the 1875 constitution, nobles and ministers appointed by the king outnumber elected People's representatives two to one.

But an independent press has emerged in recent years to play a significant role in making Tongans question authority for the first time. People's Representatives, have pressed the government to answer allegations of official corruption.

Passport

Finau said Tongans were particularly concerned about sales of passports to wealthy Chinese and what happened to the millions of dollars in proceeds. The king and 'Akau'ola have both commented on the issue recently after years of silence, but Finau says many questions remain.

Pohiva, who has taken the police minister to court over the passport issue, says government must become more accountable.

"We cannot afford to let the king and his ministers continue on and on pleasing themselves on what government should do," he said. "People should be allowed to be involved."

Pohiva accused two ministers, whom he refuses to name, of campaigning to have him barred from Parliament. He is currently fighting a lawsuit accusing him of trying to buy votes.

But the government is not entirely unsympathetic. Land Minister Ma'afu Tupou said Tonga had to move forward and some of Pohiva's aims were good.

But he urged caution: "Maybe some ideas of the people's representatives are too much for the time being. We'll have to go slowly."

Pohiva stressed his commitment to peaceful change. But he added: "If there's no other alternative, people may revert to violence. This can only happen if all peaceful approaches fail."

According to Finau, Tonga's problems have grown from a breakdown of the traditional political and cultural system where noble looked after the people.

"The emphasis is no longer people, the emphasis is money. That father figure is no longer there," he said.

QUOTE ME

"I really had the feeling they had run out of things to say after Baker spoke to them at the EEC. They were asked who wants to have the floor and there was a long silence, and finally (West Germany's) Hans-Dietrich Genscher relieved the problem." — A source on the EEC doubleheader — Baker meeting them at Nato in the morning and an evening meeting at EEC headquarters.

"I pray that your nation... will continue to be the hospitable land in which many people, including those of Mexican origin, have been given the opportunity of starting a new life." Pope John Paul II in a message to Bush urging the US to welcome Mexican immigrants.

"I come as a herald of faith and peace, as bearer of the energy of ecclesiastical communities so that they can be of service to their brothers. I want my affectionate greeting to reach from Yucatan to Baja California." — The Pope on arrival in Mexico.

"John Paul II, may your visit be fruitful," shouted awaiting crowds in a festive mood when the pope arrived in Mexico.

"For us, Nato remains what it always was — an opposing military bloc with a doctrine based on the... possibility of a first (nuclear) strike." — Eduard Shevardnadze, Soviet foreign minister.

"The United States has made clear its support for the democratisation process in Romania. Free and fair elections on May 20th are crucial to that process and to the future of US-Romanian relations. We condemn all acts of intimidation and violence in the political campaign from whatever quarter." — State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

Hussein hopes a united front

Saddam bid for Lebanon peace

MANAMA, May 12, (AP): Jordan's King Hussein stressed in an interview published today that the Arabs must emerge as a united front at the proposed Arab summit conference to confront Israel as well as the changing international scene.

"It is the splits within the Arab world, the absence of necessary co-ordination and full co-operation among us, that are encouraging Israel toward aggression and expansion," said Hussein in the interview published in Bahrain's Arabic-language daily Akhbar Al Khaleej.

"The emergency Arab summit that will be convened in Baghdad is required to adopt stands that will make Israel realise the doors are not open for its adventures," Hussein said.

Rabin told soldiers

'Break limbs'

OCCUPIED, JERUSALEM, May 12, (Reuters): A lawyer defending an Israeli army colonel said in court yesterday that former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had told soldiers to break the arms and legs of Palestinian prisoners and "break the hand that threw the stone."

But Major-General Amram Mitzna, former commander in the occupied West Bank, denied hearing such statements from Rabin, which the defence supported with a deposition from an unnamed witness.

Colonel Yehuda Meir is accused of ordering troops to smash the limbs of bound Arabs detained in the West Bank in January 1988, the second month of a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule that is now 29 months old.

Mitzna, who began testifying on Thursday, has already told the military court that at the time soldiers were allowed to club protesters resisting arrest but told the beating must stop when the suspect was in custody.

Defence lawyer Annon Goldenberg read from a deposition from a witness identified only as "MP."

"A Golani (an Israeli infantry brigade) soldier asked Rabin what to do with someone who threw a stone. Rabin answered him, 'break his arm or leg, not the head or another place, and break the hand that threw the stone,'" Goldenberg read.

Another time, the deposition said, Rabin told officers serving in Nablus: "You do the work — break arms and legs. Let me worry about the media."

Mitzna said he recalled no such statements made by Rabin when he escorted him on visits to soldiers in the field.

"In my hearing, I never heard Rabin say anything like that in any forum," Mitzna said.

Prosecution witnesses told the court that in January 1988 four officers and about 40 men raided the West Bank village of Huwara, dragged 12 villagers from their homes and took them to a nearby orchard.

As a army truck raged its engine to drown the screams, they bound the Arabs hand and foot, stuffed rags in their mouths, and systematically broke the arms and legs of all but one, left with unbroken legs to fetch help from the village, witnesses said.

Li (right) invites Mubarak into the meeting room for their talks. (Reuters wirephoto)

Li criticises settlements

Mubarak in China

BEIJING, May 12, (UPI): Chinese Premier Li Peng, at a meeting with visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said today that Israel's settlement policy has "provoked instability in the Middle East."

Li's comments echoed those of President Yang Shangkun, who told Mubarak yesterday on the first day of a three-day visit that Israel is obstructing peace in the region.

"Recently, the Israeli government settled many Jews in the West Bank. This phenomenon has provoked a strong reaction among the Arab people in the Middle East," Li told Mubarak in the Great Hall of the People, where Chinese leaders meet.

"The Chinese government firmly opposes Israel's settlement of Jews because it violates international rules and delays the progress of peace in the Middle East," Li said.

During the meeting, which was broadcast on state television, Li reaffirmed China's support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

China, a major arms supplier to Egypt, has maintained political solidarity with the Palestinians and the Arab states, even while quietly pursuing unofficial trade and economic ties with Israel.

Mubarak also met with Communist Party head Jiang Zemin, who criticised "some people in the West" today for interfering in other countries' internal affairs.

At a meeting with Mubarak in Zhongnanhai, the vast housing compound for top Chinese leaders, Jiang criticised unidentified Westerners for maintaining that the rapid growth of science and technology has made the term "non-interference in each other's internal affairs" obsolete.

"We cannot agree with this," Jiang said, according to a report carried by the official Xinhua news agency.

The Communist Party leader told Mubarak "the question of what system a country should take is decided by its historical development and its people, and allows no external interference," the report said.

Jiang did not elaborate but was presumably defending China for resisting the wave of political liberalisations that has resulted in the successive fall of hardline communist regimes in East Europe and growing unrest in the Soviet Union.

"Under the present world situation, the strengthening of unity and co-operation between Third World countries is all the more necessary," Jiang said.

Beirut justice in backlog

Violence overwhelms attempts to punish criminals

BEIRUT, May 12, (AP): Sometimes judges take pity on prisoners whose incarceration makes them unable to flee Beirut's daily shelling, and let them go on minimum bail. At other times, the shelling does that for them, blowing holes in prison walls that allow the inmates to escape.

During 15 years of civil war, the criminal justice system has tried to keep functioning. But the violence can overwhelm its attempts.

"I switched on the TV one night and saw gunmen sniping from my office at the Palace of Justice," said one judge, who like the rest spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We obviously cannot meet there," he said. "The intra-Christian fighting that has torn Beirut for the last 101 days has trapped about 415 prisoners in a belt of

some of the worst fighting. The showdown between troops of rebel Gen. Michel Aoun and militiamen of warlord Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces — the worst among Christians in the civil war — has killed almost 1,000 people and wounded more than 2,500 since it erupted Jan 31.

A lawyer who fled the fighting in the Christian enclave to predominantly Muslim West Beirut said the judiciary authorities have not been able to meet to consider dozens of cases of detainees who have been hooked pending interrogation.

"They are arrested and jailed and not their fate depends on the situation," said the lawyer.

The Palace of Justice where the meetings normally take place lies on the confrontation line separating Geagea's areas of influence from Aoun-held terrain. It is under constant sniper fire and shelling.

"We have been trying to form a committee to meet anywhere in order to take a decision to release the prisoners on bail pending a trial when security conditions permit," the judge said.

The lawyer said some colleagues paid lightning visits to the Palace of Justice to put the files in safe hiding or take them to safer areas. "But it is not possible to operate normally from there."

The judge said the jails lie in the most-targeted areas in Rounieh, Baabda and Furn Al Shubbak, all held by Aoun.

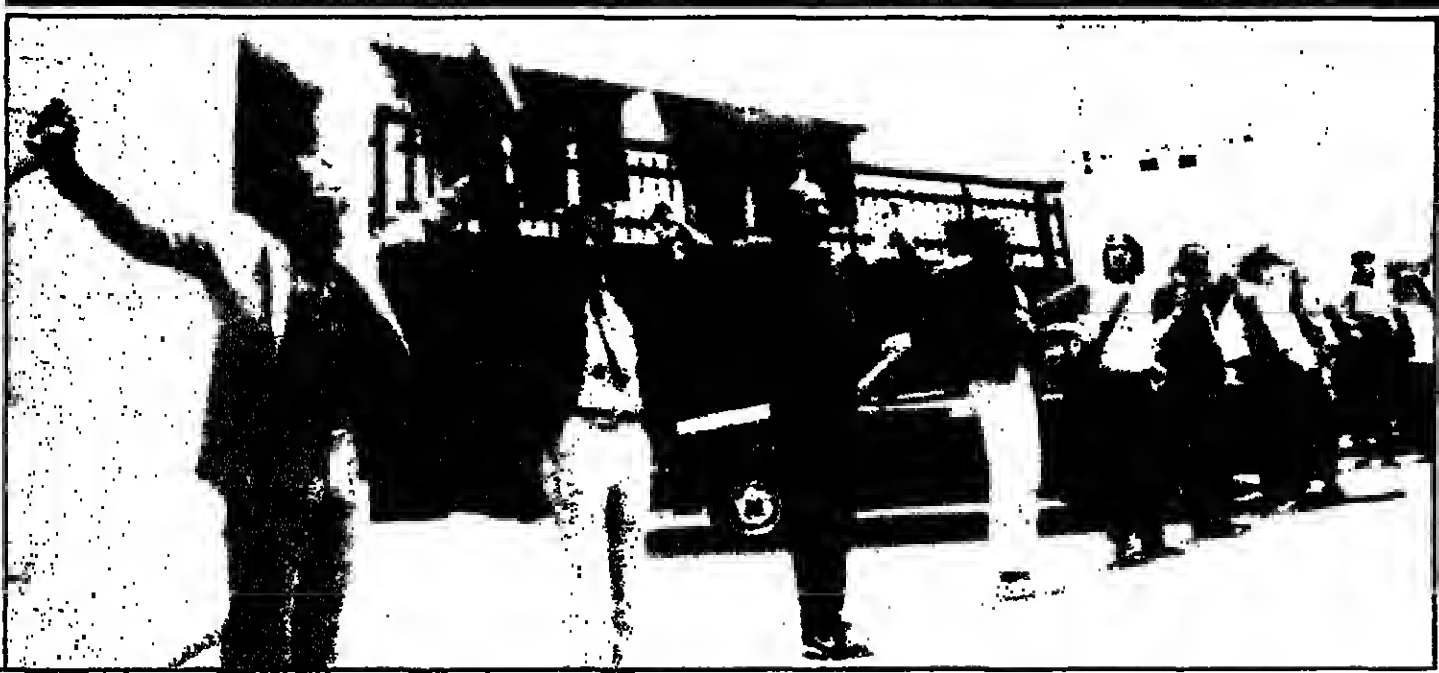
Rounieh is the highest. Aoun's main howitzer batteries are deployed around the prison in the wooded valley which protects

them against Geagea's fire. "The prisoners are crowded and in such dangerous areas that whenever we can meet we try to release most of the detainees who have committed minor offences on bail set at a minimal amount," said the judge.

"We also have no wards to treat drug addicts," she added. "So again we tend to set them free on bail because if we place them in prison, they'll be more corrupted by other prisoners."

Few jails have bomb shelters and prisoner control is all but non-existent during the shelling because the guards are generally the first to flee the buildings.

Occasionally the shells damage the buildings, allowing prisoners to escape.



Peace march

Palestinian and Jewish peace activists link hands May 12 in front of the closed universities. All universities in the West Bank have been closed by the Israeli authorities for the last 30 months. (Reuters wirephoto)

Iranian call for freeing hostages

Nicosia, May 12, (AP): A top Iranian official called for the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon and said Washington could show goodwill by releasing billions of dollars in Iranian assets, the Tehran Times reported Saturday.

It quoted Hussein Masavian, director-general of Iran's Foreign Ministry, as saying the recent release of two American captives was due to his country's efforts.

But Masavian said as long as the United States continues its "hostile and negative" attitude towards Iran, there can be no possibility of an improvement in relations.

"However, the way is open for the United States to prove its goodwill," he was quoted as saying in the interview, conducted originally in Vienna with Austrian journalists.

Asked what Washington could do to show its goodwill, he said, "their hands are free for taking positive practical steps, such as the release of Iranian assets frozen by them for years."

The United States and Iran agreed on Wednesday on settling some 3,200 claims, worth about \$50 million, filed by US citizens who were in Iran when the revolution seized power in 1979.

Most of these claims involve loss of personal property. This was believed to be a step forward toward settling a multibillion-dollar dispute festering since 1979 after Washington froze Iranian assets.

Iran says the frozen assets amount to \$11 billion but the United States says the figure is exaggerated.

"We believe that all countries, especially those that have influence in Lebanon, should exert their maximum efforts for the release of the hostages," Masavian said.

"The criteria for these efforts should be to release all hostages regardless of their nationality, solely for humanitarian reasons and without any preconditions or deals."

It was the latest in a series of statements from Iranian officials saying the 16 Western hostages in Lebanon, most of whom are held by two Iranian Shiite Muslim groups, should be freed.

He said caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir would soon present a narrow government with the support of far-right and religious parties that would also be able to overcome strains in relations with the United States.

Asked how a government dependent on hardline parties that oppose US peace proposals could achieve both aims, Arents told Israel Radio:

"I don't think it's going to be easy, but I'd say if anything it's going to be easier."

The reported mentor of Shiite Muslim kidnappers Hossein Musawi Thursday ruled out negotiations with Israel for a swap of Arab detainees for Western hostages and three Israeli servicemen held in Lebanon.

"The believers have every moral, religious and humanitarian objection against negotiating with Israel," Musawi told a news conference at his headquarters in east Lebanon's ancient city of Baalbek.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

O'Connor blasts Jewish settlers: Roman Catholic Cardinal John O'Connor strongly condemned the Holy Week move by Jewish settlers in the Christian quarter as "obscene," according to a published report.

The move was "a signal of a conspiracy to grab lands all over Israel currently occupied by Christians," O'Connor wrote in the weekly Catholic New York, a publication of the Catholic archdiocese of New York. The remarks were reported in Saturday's editions of the New York Post.

O'Connor pointed to suggestions by some people that Israel is "speeding up... a design to make it virtually impossible for Christians to function anywhere in the land." (AP)

Islamic conference: The Islamic Da'awa (call) organisation concluded three days of deliberations in Khartoum last night by adopting a number of resolutions and recommendations designed to boost the activities of the organisation in Africa in the coming three years.

The final sitting of the board of trustees of the organisation approved the bylaws which give it diplomatic immunity and exempts it from taxes and customs levied on other organisations. (Kuna)

Peace march postponed: The Arab-American organisers of a peace march from Amman to the occupied West Bank border said on Saturday they had postponed it six months to allow more celebrities to take part.

A spokesman of the Jordan branch of the Washington-based American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) said the march would be held on November 29 instead of June 1.

He said opposition to the peace march by militant Muslim fundamentalists had played no part in the decision.

"The local steering committee of the ADC took the decision... because many of the celebrities he invited said they would join us but insisted they needed more time to organise their schedules," he told Reuters.

German relief ship diverted: A West German ship carrying about 1,500 tonnes of food to famine victims in northern Ethiopia has had to divert to Port Sudan after being told it was dangerous to use the rebel-held port of Massawa.

The rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said on Saturday the Ethiopian government had threatened to bomb the ship, a Danish vessel chartered by the charity Cap Anamur, if it docked at Massawa as planned.

Cap Anamur, West German charity, disclosed later that the ship had arrived in Port Sudan.

A government spokesman in Bonn said West Germany and other West European countries asked Ethiopia to allow the ship to go to Massawa but got no reply. (Reuters)

Czech change of heart: A ranking Palestinian diplomat has expressed the Palestinian leadership's profound concern at Czechoslovakia's change of heart regarding the 1975 UN resolution which equates Zionism with racism.

This came in a meeting between Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel and Palestinian ambassador in Prague Samih Abdel Fattah (Abu Hisham) last night.

President Havel had criticised the UN resolution, which was adopted by absolute majority during the term of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim as UN Secretary General. (Kuna)

Israel ill-prepared

Influx of brain power

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 12, (AP): Vladimir Kislik, a nuclear physicist who worked in the Soviet atomic weapons programmes, has not been able to find work in his field since arriving in Israel last year.

But Kislik is lucky to have work at all, after finding a job analysing coal ashes for a high-tech firm studying the extraction of precious metals from low-grade ores.

Nearly one in four of the new immigrants to Israel is a highly educated professional, and Israel is having trouble absorbing the influx of brain power.

"Israel cannot provide employment for the thousands of scientists who will immigrate in the next two years," said Yitzhak Perez, a top immigration official.

Added Amos Rubin, economic adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "If we absorb even one in 10 (professionals) successfully, we know we are on the right track."

The Jewish agency, an immigrant assistance group, said there are 23,000 highly skilled professionals in each group of 100,000 new arrivals.

The figure includes 11,000 engineers, 2,500 doctors and dentists, 2,000 scientists and about 7,000 other professionals including computer specialists and nurses.

The 150,000 Soviet Jews expected to arrive this year would include 35,000 professionals. No figures were available on how the 10,000 professionals who arrived in the past six months have fared.

But employment opportunities in Israel are limited. Universities and government laboratories can only take a limited number of engineers and researchers.

In the private sector, few high-tech jobs are being created because of a recession, prompted in part by the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. In addition, there is fierce competition from Israel's highly skilled labour force.

Israeli officials say the unemployment rate for university graduates exceeds the nation-wide

average of 9 per cent, and thousands of engineers and scientists have been forced to seek work abroad, mainly in the United States.

Haim Harari, the head of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel's leading scientific institution, said in an interview earlier this year that preferential treatment should not be given to Soviet immigrants.

"I can't accept a situation where we create jobs only open to Russian immigrants, and Israelis are in the United States waiting to come back, but can't find jobs," said Harari, a physicist.

"It's sheer idiocy to export our people to the United States, and import Russian immigrants," he added.

Problems with handling the Soviet immigrants are compounded by political instability following the March 15 collapse of the coalition rule by the right-wing Likud Bloc and the left-leaning Labour Party.

The upheaval delayed approval of a budget amendment allocating an extra 2 billion shekies (\$1 billion) for Soviet immigrants in fiscal 1990.

"Precious time has been lost," said an immigration official who spoke on condition that he not be named.

Some private initiatives have been launched, but they are able to handle only a small number of the incoming scientists.

For example, Satec, a small high-tech firm in Jerusalem that employed Kislik, was founded two years ago to hire Soviet scientists after Joseph Gunkel, a businessman from Sydney, Australia, put up \$3 million.

The company, which makes digital electricity metres and technology to extract gold from low-grade ores, employs 35 Soviets, all recent arrivals.

The company is turning a modest profit, said scientific director Herman Branover, who came from the Soviet Union in 1972.

But Satec remains unique. Branover said he tried to duplicate a model used elsewhere in Israel but failed because foreign investors balked at financing high-risk ventures in a country hounded by political instability and an infamous bureaucracy.

Zaher asks rebels to unite

Rome, May 12, (AP): The exiled king of Afghanistan today appealed to Muslim rebel groups fighting the Marxist Afghan government to put aside their differences to push for elections.

King Zahir Shah's appeal came a few days after Muslim rebels declared they would reject any US-Soviet deal to end their 12-year-old fight to oust Kabul's communist-style government.

Talks about how to end the Afghan civil war are expected to be high on the agenda later this month when US President George Bush meets with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Washington.

Western diplomats and Afghan experts in Pakistan have said one possible solution could be an election run by the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, or by a "neutral" body chosen by both organisations.

The ex-king made his appeal in a written statement issued in Rome, where he has lived in exile since 1973, when his cousin, Mohammad Daoud, staged a coup with the help of Afghanistan's then-ruling communists.

Addressing his appeal to the fragmented Muslim rebel groups, Zahir Shah said they "should not now lay claim to political leadership without preparing the opportunity of referring it to the vote of the Afghan people, which is the fundamental criterion for obtaining political leadership."

The loose coalition of rebel groups is deeply divided. Adding to the political difficulties is Afghan President Najibullah's refusal to step down before any elections — a pre-condition set by even the most moderate rebel groups, whose headquarters are in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar.

In his appeal the monarch has said "no personal consideration or claim to any special privilege whatsoever. My sole objective is the attainment of national unity and cohesion among the various sides of Afghan society and the establishment of peace in the country."

Asked just what kind of measures the king had in mind, his spokesman and brother-in-law, Gen. Abdul Wali, declined to elaborate. He also declined to comment on prospects that might develop from the US-Soviet talks in Washington.

Rebels cut road

NAIROBI, Kenya, May 12, (AP): Sudanese rebels said today they had cut the only road between two government-held towns in the south and threatened to shoot down aircraft flying to a besieged garrison.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army rebels said they cut the road between Yei and Juba, a capital of Equatoria province, after an attack Thursday on a military convoy. Ninety-two troops were killed.

In a clandestine radio broadcast, the rebels said "any attempt to reinforce troops in Yei by air will be met by our gunners now under maximum alert."

The broadcast was monitored in Kenya's capital, Nairobi. However, it was not possible to independently verify the rebel claim.

Yei, which rebels say is under siege, is about 150 kms (93 miles) southwest of Juba and near Zaire's border.

The rebels control most of the countryside in southern Sudan and regularly bombard Juba and Yei with mortar and artillery.

The SPLA took up arms in 1983 to press for increased autonomy for Christian and animist southerners. Traditionally, the government in Sudan is dominated by Muslim northerners.

Libya renewing intervention in African strife: US

WASHINGTON, May 12, (Reuters): Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi has resumed efforts to destabilise parts of black Africa, training and financing rebels in Liberia and renewing his intervention in Chad, a senior US State Department official said.

The official told Reuters in an interview that Libya had trained the core of the Liberian rebel force, including leader Charles Taylor, before it launched an invasion in December.

The rebels have pushed the forces of President Samuel Doe out of much of north-

eastern Liberia since invading from the Ivory Coast and are now only about 80 miles (125 km) from Monrovia, according to recent reports by travellers from the area.

The United States had previously said it had some evidence that Libya had helped finance the rebels. But the official's statement on Thursday was the first time the United States has alleged Tripoli trained them as well.

"We know they have received some support from Libya. We know that some of the rebel fighters were trained in Libya, that they

received some Libyan money," the official said, adding that Washington regarded the development as disturbing.

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen met a Liberian government delegation on Wednesday. They discussed ideas whereby the impoverished West African state could try to stop the fighting.

Hundreds of people have died in the fighting and more than 270,000 refugees, more than a tenth of the population have fled to Guinea and Ivory Coast.

Roseferns performs in Kuwait

No songs to sing, no tears to cry

By Peter D'Souza
Arab Times staff

ROSEFERNs, the popular Goan dramatist who arrived in Kuwait on Wednesday, staged the first show of his drama Xinxé (Shards of Glass) on Thursday at the Granada Cinema sans the usual side show of songs nor a heart to cry.

In the drama Xinxé, Lawrence (Roseferns) loves his brother Savio (Espirito) so much that he and his wife Antonetta (Clara) sell their infant son for a few thousands rupees without regrets.

Lawrence gives the money he gets to Savio for his needs. Savio goes to Bombay, marries a rich girl Selma (Francisca), becomes rich and quarrels with his brother.

As time passes by, Selma elopes with another boy called Leslie (Mario) and Savio becomes pauper again while Lawrence becomes a rich man. Savio comes back to Lawrence to ask for forgiveness and shelter. Lawrence forgives him, plus gives him money and asks him to go away saying: "Some people are like shards of glass. The closer they are, more dan-

gerous they become."

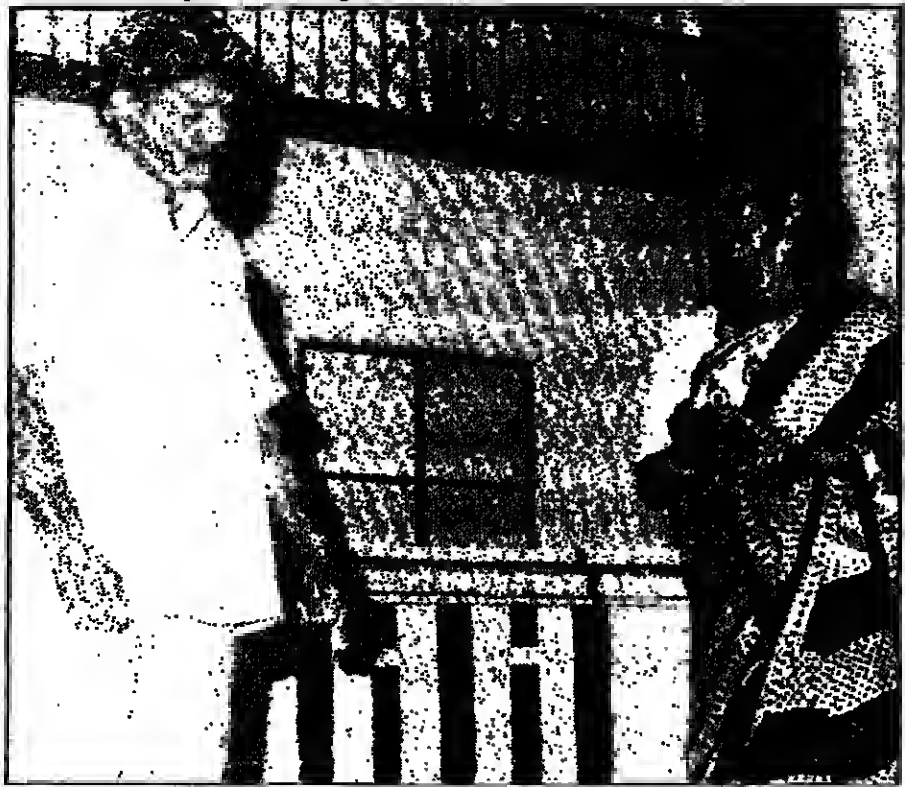
Roseferns made every effort to make his drama as complicated as possible to convey a simple message of brotherly love, or is it hate? Roseferns also tried to convey that whatever ill one does, he gets it back in the same measure.

Though Roseferns attracted a hallful of people, his show clearly lacked the applause and encore other dramas receive. Comedy by Kalyan (Louis) and Rajdan (Sally) added spice to the drama that dragged for three and half hours, starting one hour behind schedule.

Evangelista as xamain (grandmother) was superb. Espirito, Francisca, Jaju were quite good, while Clara, Roseferns, Esteve and Mario did their best. Succorina sang one song at the start of the drama and disappeared. Mingu fiddled with light effect switches, Antonio played the drums. Gaspar blew his trumpet and Xavier his saxophone.

Audio cassette recorders were not allowed in the hall and one belonging to a press reporter was seized.

The drama was organised by the Expatriate Club of Kuwait.



Lawrence (Roseferns) and his wife Antonetta (Clara) discuss family problems.



Succorina sings the only song. (Photos by Ahmad Emad)



A neighbour (Evangelista) gives Lawrence some advice.

A room full of foreigners

By Dave Freeman

HAVE you ever been double booked in a hotel in a foreign land and found that the hall porter seems to be in sole charge and has very little interest in your plight?

Have you ever dreaded finding that your holiday hotel is a replica of Fawley Towers, with leaking radiators, noisy plumbing and with room maids and plumbers who are not quite what they seem?

The current comedy that Kuwaiti players are rehearsing features both these situations and a whole lot more besides.

There are marital tiffs, misunderstandings, a lost ring, irresponsible hotel staff, mistaken identities, a bobonic plague scare, some bizarre guilty secrets and, as if any colour were wanted, a local village festival.

You will be delighted with the cast, most of whom have been seen on stage already this year at least once.

Karak, the less than efficient Concierge, who certainly knows how to look after Number One, is ably played by Paul Dillon. (Victor Velasco, from Barefoot in the Park).

Heinz, the amorous "movie buff" of an hotel owner runs the hotel by flattery and is played most suitably by Muhammad (telephone repair man from Barefoot in the Park).

Stanley Parker, the naive, inept and harassed husband on his first European holiday, is portrayed with the right degree of agitation, by Andrew Maynard (Jimbo and the Gorilla in "When did you last see your trousers?")

Brenda Parker, Stanley's easily flattered wife, who falls prey to the insidious charms of the hotel owner, Heinz, is delightfully played by Catherine O'Brien whom you saw in April as the Post Office's answer to Super Woman.

Helga Philby, an erstwhile nurse of Germanic origins, who displays an outward calm which conceals an autocratic and emotions, is expertly played by Elaine O'Shannessy. (Remember the recent "On Pink Paper in Black and White").

Claude Philby, Helga's pompous and -- oh so English -- husband, is self-righteously played by "Oh Clarence's" bumble-footed clergyman alias Dave Burfoot.

Last but not least, the French female friend of Claude, who has a penchant for upsetting apple carts, is effectively played by Michelle Jeans. (Barefoot in the Park and "On Pink Paper in Black and White").

You are assured of an evening of laughter, so make a note of the following dates at the Universal American School.

Mon to Thur inclusive 28th to the 31st May, ring 5321294 or 5615357.

ARTS

Gallery Dahiyat

Abdullah Al Salem

THE Sixth Arab Children's art show will be held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque, from May 12 to 21. The paintings and drawings of children from several Arab and Gulf countries will be on show. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm, except weekends.

SOCIAL

NRI Update

THE NRI Investors Forum meeting in Indian embassy auditorium at 11.00 am on Friday, May 25, 1990. Up-to-date reporting on forthcoming Third Gulf NRI Conference in New Delhi. All Indians cordially invited.

Approb meeting

THE bi-monthly meeting of the Approb members will be held on May 17, 1990, at 7 pm at the residence of Iqbal Laif.

The meeting will be followed by dinner and entertainment. All members are requested to attend.

Meanwhile, the Approb executive board has decided to compile "Who is who" directory of Pakistani professionals and businessmen in Kuwait. Modalities of the project will be discussed at the May 17 meeting.

Hyderabad Mushaira

THE committee for celebrations of four centuries of Hyderabad Deccan, is going to hold a grand Mushaira, on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 8.00 pm at Carlton Tower Hotel, Faded Al Salem Street. Guest poets from Hyderabad will participate in it along with prominent local poets. A limited number of seats left. Reserve your seat now to avoid disappointment. For passes and more details call Khalish Hyderabad, on 4735591 ext. 34 (between 7 am - 12.30 pm).

Pakistan Arts Circle

THE executive committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle has the pleasure to announce its forthcoming programme, to be held on June 7, 1990, at 8.00 pm at the Sharq hall.

The programme has been designed in a most splendid manner, first part to cover, an inauguration of poetry collection "Abr-e-naul Bahar" by Hamid Kartarpuri, followed by a mushaira of selected poets of Kuwait. The speakers on the books are Noor, Parkar, Ghulam Mustafa Baikes, Tasleem Akbar, the Musarrat Jabin Zeba. The programme will be presided over by Dr Masood Alam Shams and a part of inauguration and mushaira will be presented by Dr Saleha Jawad Musa, advisor, Ministry of Education.

The second part of the programme will present musical variety, great-o-sangeet and ghazals by most renowned artists to be followed by prizes, and many items of interest.

The entry is free to all PAC's members and registered families as well as all Pakistani families but an admission card must be obtained well before the programme. Each card bears a serial number, and has to be retained till the end of the announcement of the valuable prizes.

For further information, please contact Hamid Mahmood Tel. 4716258, Salman Sbab 4769520 and M. K. Kidwai 4312016.

Painting exhibition

A PAINTING exhibition titled, Around the World, will be held at Kuwait International Hotel from May 8-16 by Mrs Luz Marina Colwell, an American citizen born in Colombia, South America. The exhibition will show subjects from different countries as well as a special section on Kuwait. It includes cityscapes, desertscapes, landscapes and Islamic designs. Tel: 2530000.

Tamil drama

IAC presents a hilarious Tamil comedy by "Enthusiasts", after their last year's roaring success of *Unmaiye Umm Vilai Enna*. Programme is at IAC hall on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm.

For entry passes contact 3904817, 5616930, 48894874 and 3903879.

Indian Arts Circle

HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is a Konkani play at 8 pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

Boushahri Gallery

AN exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg, Salem Al Mubarak St., from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Isiah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jame'ei. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

SPORTS

Windsurfing

ALL are welcome to the Meesilab Beach Hotel open windsurfing event on Friday, May 25, 1990.

Prizes for experienced, novice and lady windsurfers. Entry fee is KD3. Maximum sail size 1D 7.5 square metres. For further information please call 5624111 ext. 739.

Tamil drama

IAC presents a hilarious Tamil comedy by "Enthusiasts", after their last year's roaring success of *Unmaiye Umm Vilai Enna*. Programme is at IAC hall on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm.

For entry passes contact 3904817, 5616930, 48894874 and 3903879.

HOTELS

Meridien Kuwait

THAI CORNER: Enjoy Thai cuisine every Saturday night at La Brasserie. In addition to our daily lavish buffet our chef will prepare Thai specialties in front of you.

COWBOY NIGHT: Every Sunday enjoy live country music, Western decor and hearty ranch food: prime ribs, burgers, tacos and great desserts including mpm's, apple pie. Join us at La Brasserie for a real country boodown.

CHINESE CORNER: Enjoy Chinese cuisine every Monday night at La Brasserie. In addition to our daily lavish buffet our chef will prepare Chinese specialties in front of you.

GREEK TAVERA: Tuesday evening, enjoy a little Mediterranean magic, real bouzouki music and dreamy Greek island specialties and atmosphere at La Brasserie.

INDONESIAN CORNER: Enjoy Indonesian cuisine every Wednesday night at La Brasserie. In addition to our daily lavish buffet our chef will prepare Indonesian specialties in front of you.

JAZZ NIGHT: Enjoy New Orleans atmosphere with jazz and seafood specialties every Thursday in La Brasserie restaurant.

Enjoy a typical Oriental buffet lunch with Oriental artist every Friday in La Brasserie restaurant. Friday: Family day in La Brasserie.

VERSAILLES: Take advantage of our great value business lunch including starter, main course, dessert and coffee. For dinner enjoy relaxing atmosphere provided by our resident artist and finest cuisine with a la carte menu featuring chef specialties as fish or beef "fondue", grilled beef on "brasserie", ham and salmon on "shingle" and many others.

CINEMA

Al Andulus

Arabic film

Al Salmiyah

Arabic film

Al Hamra

Arabic film

Drive-in

Arabic film

Al Firdous

Dana Pani

Fahsheel Open

Kaun Jeeta Kaun Hara

Fahsheel

Scrooged

Al Jahra

Dil-e-Nadan

Granada

Aakhi Muqabala

Safalikhath

Mad Mission 5

Jeeb

Ammavano Patiya Amai

Ahmadi Drive-in

The Untouchables

PRAYERS

Fajr

3.28 am

Zuhr

11.44

Asr

3.20 pm

Maghreb

6.32

Isha

7.58

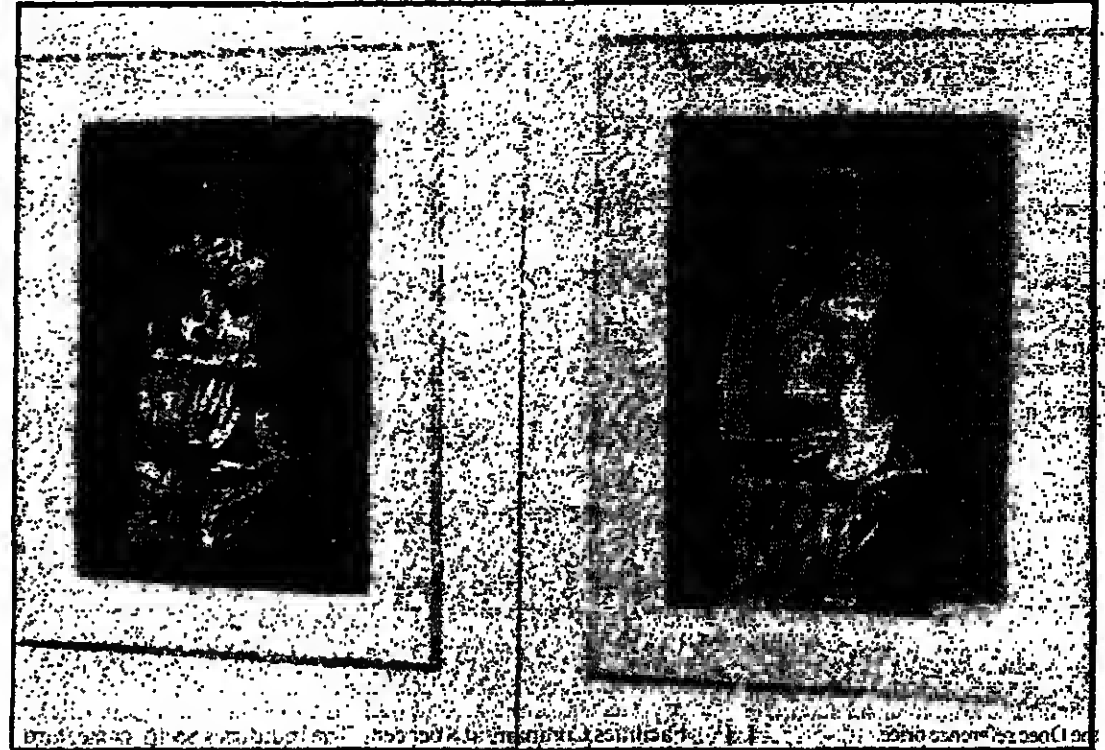
It's show time again

SATYADEV DUBEY, the enfant terrible of Indian stage, in course of an interview sometime back, said, "There is in a good play, a moment where your happiness and the happiness of the audience finds a meeting point. When that happens it is a sublime blessing. But the process to win over the mass, sitting in the dark, is not easy. When you get the flavour of its response. When you know the mass is moving with you even if you try a different modulation It is really a great high."

Last year, the first ever IAC One-Act Play Competition held in Kuwait had ended on such high note with sublime blessing of the expatriate audience. They did not walk in late, whisper loudly during the performance, eat high decible crunchies, and pass derisive remarks as it often happens in most theatres in India. The audience-actor dynamics in the IAC auditorium last year during the One-Act Play Competition was unique. Whether it was "Andu-Indu-Mundu," a Kannada one-act play or "Tazharayude Thengal," a Malayalam one-act play, a tragic Bengali play, or a Tamil comedy -- the 12 plays with towering stage presence of some artistes, impeccable dialogues, stage management and costumes and polish in some productions, reached out to a large expatriate audience in packed auditorium. It was fascinating to see some in the audience not following the dialogues in some language plays still enjoying them enormously. The quality of the attention that the audience brought expressed itself in silence and concentration -- a feeling that encouraged the artistes and the competition organisers greatly.

There was a clear evidence of healthy competition which augurs well for the NRI theatre movement in Kuwait. The NRIs of Kuwait have not only given a distinct lead in the areas of investments in India, but also are creating waves in cultural and literary activities. The Indian Arts Circle of Kuwait, apart from providing entertainment and diversion to the large Indian expatriates, has been encouraging flowering of talents in diverse cultural activities as well.

The theatre celebrity Peter Brook in his recent book "The Empty Space" observes "If good theatre depends on a good audience, then every audience has the theatre it deserves." This year the audience deserves to view clean entertainment in 16 one-act plays from different play groups planning to perform in the 2nd IAC Play Competition at the IAC auditorium. Many expect that with this event the NRI theatre movement will take a positive turn.



Those who live there

The Boushahri Gallery recently opened an exhibition entitled 'Those who live there'. The exhibition carries paintings of Arab artists Jaafar Isiah, Jaffer Kaaky, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and others. Opening times are from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 pm to 12.30 pm. The exhibition will be on show until the end of May.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Opening with the Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.30 Cultural film
12.00 Candid camera
12.30 News in brief
12.35 Closedown
Evening
4.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.30 Cartoon serial
5.00 Cartoons
5.30 Public announcements
6.00 Historical serial-Muslim judges
7.00 Songs
7.15 Agricultural magazine
7.50 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabat
8.30 Good evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Daily Arabic serial: Layali Al Helmiya
10.30 Arabic play

12.00 News in brief
12.05 World Today via Satellite and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 The Berastain Bears: A cartoon series for children
6.30 The Beachcombers "Tricky Moves" Jesse generously offers to rent the houseboat to Pat and Jack O'Gorman, but old Jack refuses. The resulting conflict between Jack and Pat threatens to destroy their relationship.
7.00 In the Shadow of Fujisan: A look at Monkeys in Japan that live on trees or in running waters and are used as a means of communications by Japanese monks!!
8.00 News in English

8.30 Matlock "Best Friend" A journalist threatens to disclose the secrets of a well known senator who is found murdered. His wife accuses the journalist of murdering him.
9.30 Body Matters "The best goes on..." A look at the human heart as a blood pump...the formation of the heart in the embryo...
10.00 The Nut House "My Man Tarkington" An Englishman is appointed as the hotel manager who starts to implement the English style in hotels...
10.30 Bestseller "Tanamera, Lion of Singapore" After meeting with Joly in the hospital in Cylon John returns to Singapore to rebuild Dexters business empire.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite

Viennese Opera Ball Orchestra brings Austrian opulence back to life

By Jadranka Porter

Arab Times staff

THE Viennese Opera Ball Orchestra performed Friday the best of Viennese dance music bringing to life the opulent and carefree atmosphere of 19th century imperial Austria.

As pulsating marches followed the sliding rhythm of waltzes, the packed audience at Kuwait International Hotel ballroom spontaneously responded to the music with heads swaying, feet tapping and hands clapping.

Indeed numbers such as the Blue Danube waltz or the exhilarating Radetzky March with its universal appeal needed no introduction. They speak of an epoch and an affluent society that, even if rather self-indulgent, left a legacy of fine music -- an essential part of their lifestyle.

Judging by the music heard Friday those must have been heady days in Vienna when its ballrooms were filled with elegant couples swinging round

and round and performing the sliding steps of the waltz.

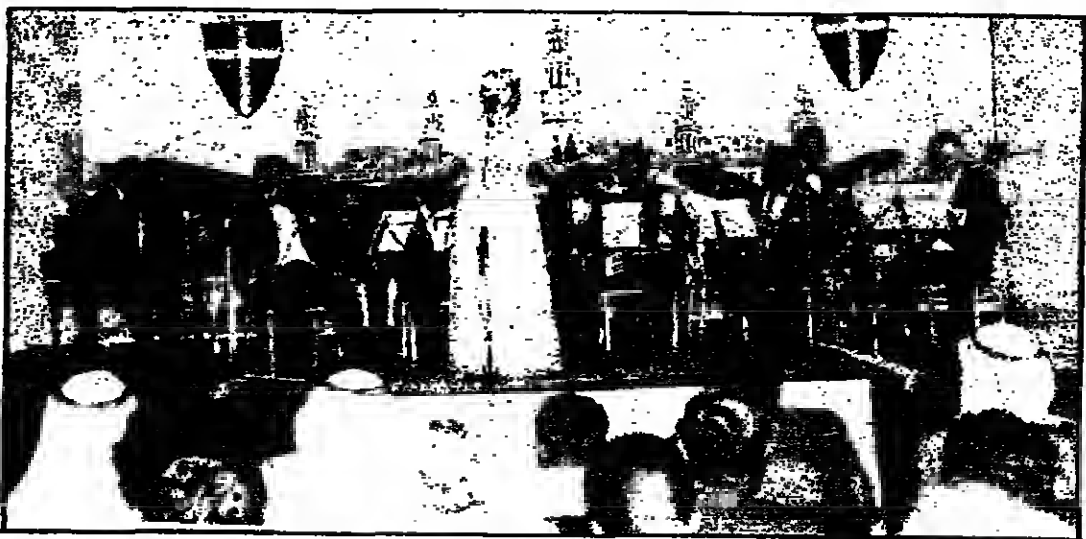
Happy

Right through the programme of some 20 pieces it was obvious that the music was created if not necessarily by happy composers then for an audience that was happy and wanted to stay so. There is no tension or probing in the music of Johann Strauss or Robert Stolz. These are romantic pieces, easy to listen and like, and with a rhythm that lends itself to dancing.

Sweet sorrow

That the Viennese were immensely proud of their music and the city that cherished it, is evident from the number of titles of compositions that include the city's name.

Thus you have "Wiener Blut" (Viennese blood), a beautiful waltz, then a march entitled "Wien bleibt Wien" (Vienna will always be Vienna) and "Wiener Burger" (the Citizens of Vienna). They went even further in self-adulation as could be seen from



Marcella Cerno singing "Spring in Vienna" by Franz Grothe accompanied by the Viennese Opera Ball Orchestra.

another title "Angels on holiday in Vienna."

Yet, they are easily forgiven and one is hard put to cooase a

favourite piece.

I must admit partiality to Csardas, a national dance of Hungary also known as a court-

ing dance of couples, that made its way into Viennese ballrooms during the times of the Austro-Hungarian empire. The Csardas

on Friday was the one composed by Franz Lehar and performed by the orchestra with Professor Franz Interholzinger as a soloist on the violin.

Its opening slow section contains elements of sweet sorrow only to be followed by an exhilarating fast section played to compelling syncopated rhythms.

Austrian opera singer Marcella Cerno, a coloratura soprano, demonstrated her talent in arias such as the outstanding one from Strauss's operetta "Die Fledermaus."

Novel

The orchestra, whose members have played together for some 20 years, came to Kuwait without its director and conductor professor Norbert Pavlicki who fell ill just before departure from Vienna. Herbert Seifner, stepped into his shoes but as he had to play the orchestra did its job without the conductor for most part of the concert. Curiously enough Seifner, who

teaches classical guitar at the Music Academy, played the electric guitar which, although a novel inclusion, he says "produces just the sound we need."

One regrettable aspect of the performance on Friday was the use of microphones and loudspeakers which distorted the sound. It looks like nothing short of rebuilding their ballroom will solve the acoustics problems the hotel has been experiencing.

Although basically a classical music concert the event, in a true Kuwaiti fashion, was not exactly what one expected it to be. Thus in the first interval the Austrian Ambassador, Hans Demel, opened a trade and travel exhibition and in the second interval an Austrian chef flipped dough in the hallway demonstrating the preparation of apple strudel. All that was done to the accompaniment of a folk music group from Austria and although the entire event is difficult to categorise it was fun.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Top businessmen on Mideast tour

Canada sells high profile image

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

CANADA hopes to build a high profile image in the Gulf by selling intangible products like technical know-how and expertise.

Top Canadian businessmen, currently touring the Middle East, yesterday said they expect a mini-boom by the 1990s and would like to be a part of what they see as a chance to "enhance the quality of life in the Gulf."

Canadians expect a construction boom in the oil sector due to expansion of downstream industries. Chances of competing in the maintenance contracts market are also bright. They also expect renewed activity in the house building and road sectors.

Explaining their interest, they cite examples of recent Kuwait government plan to invest US\$2 billion in a petrochemical complex; \$300 million on the cause-



Lambert J. Toupin, mission leader

way to Subiyo, which is the proposed site of a major urban development over the next 20 years. National Housing Authority plans to build 28,000 homes and the private scheme of building two "pearl cities" for 50,000 people.

"There is considerable potential to develop the market, par-



Samir J. Zalzal, mission co-leader

ticularly in trade and investment," said John Schioler, director-general of the Canada-Arab Business Council (CABC).

Mission leader Lambert Toupin sees the potential of developing joint ventures in what they see as "third country" opportunity — Kuwait capital and Canadian know-how in



John P. Schioler, director-general, CABC

industries set up in a developing Arab country like the Sudan and Egypt.

Kuwait particularly interests Canadians due to what one diplomat described as the country's "versatile foreign and investment policies."

Toupin said there is substantial Kuwaiti investment by

individuals in Canada. "There are Kuwaiti investment (deals) going on every day in equities, shares, directly or indirectly, and real estate," he said. Such transactions are done through banks or trust companies based in London or New York making it difficult for them to gauge the extent of the investment volume.

"A solid economic bridge could be built between Canada and this part of the world," said Toupin.

At the moment, Canadian exports form under one per cent of the total market share. Exports from Canada to Kuwait were valued at CS20,743 in 1989. Main exports are automobiles, wood and paper products, machinery and instruments, minerals, chemicals and allied products and foodstuff.

"The trade figures are misleading because they do not

include Canadian products exported from a third country," explained Commercial Counsellor R. P. W. Mason.

For example, General Motors exports automobiles made in Canada to the region; telecommunication equipment is stockpiled in countries like Ireland, Singapore and Turkey before being sent to the Gulf.

The Canadians have also made substantial inroads in supplying technical know-how, education and training and consultancy services in various fields.

A Canadian firm has been invited to tender for the Pearls of Kuwait project, another firm is currently involved in the design and construction of the Kuwait Natural History and Science Museum. In the UAE, a Canadian firm recently won the \$67 million dredging and land

reclamation contract for the second phase of the Abu Dhabi corniche island project.

CABC's objective is to promote two-way trade between Canada and Arab-Gulf countries. Founded in 1983, the group plans to enlarge and diversify Canadian business presence in the region and enhance exchange of information.

The CABC delegation, one of the largest (25 members) and only the third to this part of the world, has already explored the markets in Egypt and Iraq. From Kuwait, they will be going to Abu Dhabi and Dubai as part of their Middle Eastern tour.

In addition to Toupin and Schioler, other members include Samir Zalzal, president and vice-chairman of CABC; James Metcalfe of Canstul Group; John Brooks of Brooks Investments; and Guy Cadioux of the External Affairs and International Trade.

Alshall market review

Price indices dip

THE Alshall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 39.49 points with a decrease of 0.20 point — 0.50 per cent — from last week's average. The Alshall Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 51.93 points with a decrease of 0.81 point — 1.54 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 15.23 million shares at a daily average of 3.05 million shares with a decrease of 42 per cent from previous week's daily average of 5.26 million shares. Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 3.450 million shares at a daily average of 0.690 million shares with a decrease of 41 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.177 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD5.24 million at a daily average of KD1.05 million, a decrease of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.140 million at a daily average of KD0.028 million, a decrease of 52 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.058 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the Banking Sector came first at 72 per cent of total trading against 60 per cent last week. Commercial Bank had the lead at 36 per cent, followed by Kuwait Finance House at 21 per cent and Burgan Bank at 13 per cent. The Investor Sector came second at 16 per cent in which Coast Investment & Development Company had the lead at 72 per cent, followed by National Investments Company at 11 per cent and Commercial Facilities Company at 8 per cent. The Industries Sector came third at 6 per cent in which The National Industries Company had the lead at 58 per cent, followed by Kuwait Cement Company at 42 per cent.

As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain Middle East Bank had the lead at 75 per cent, followed by Arabian General Investment Company (Shua'a) at 12 per cent and Umm Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries Company at 7 per cent.

The market showed signs of weak activity which was reflected on all six indices in both markets. The week started with high activity which was concentrated in the Banking Sector especially on the Commercial Bank's shares where there was a competition in majority in determining the coming board of director's elections.

However, this activity fell again and led to the decrease in the Commercial Bank's shares percentage of trading within the banking sector. It is still difficult to predict the market short-term direction as there are forces pulling in opposite directions. Only one company declared dividend distributions (Shua'a) during last week and we believe that this will be the last company to do so this year.

The non-Kuwaiti shares market had the highest percentage in companies that declared dividend distributions while the percentage was 66 per cent for the Kuwaiti shares market and 50 per cent for the parallel market. The percentage of companies that distributed cash dividends in the three markets reached 63 per cent of total listed companies, and the remaining 37 per cent of the listed companies declared stock dividend distributions.

Total number of companies that distributed dividends was 35 companies of a total of 53 companies listed in all markets which represents 66 per cent and is slightly higher than the last few years.

Kuwait shareholding companies index			
	Wed.	Wed.	Change
	09/05/90	02/05/90	points
Banking Sector			
The National Bk	130.52	129.20	1.32
The Gulf Bk	30.36	30.36	—
The Comm. Bk	23.97	25.03	-1.05

Al Ahli Bk	30.19	30.72	-0.53
Bk of K & ME	30.12	30.12	—
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	28.43	28.43	—
Burgan Bk	26.53	26.53	—
KI Finance House	79.93	82.62	-2.69
Sector Index	49.42	49.50	-0.08
Inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	9.18	9.18	—
KI Int. Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	—
IFA	20.85	21.62	-0.77
Comm. Facilities	166.38	175.45	-9.08
National Inv.	55.88	58.82	-2.94
Kt. Inv. Proj.	86.52	87.64	-1.12
Coast Inv. & Dev.	77.65	82.35	-4.71
Sector Index	31.77	32.94	-1.17
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Ins. Co.	34.68	34.68	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	25.38	25.38	—
Al Ahleia Ins.	52.31	52.31	—
Warba Ins. Co.	47.25	47.25	—
Sector Index	35.77	35.77	—
Real Est. Sec.			
KI. Real Est.	10.83	11.47	-0.64
Uld. Realty	5.04	5.16	-0.12
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	—
Pearl of Kt.	65.08	65.08	—
Sector Index	14.91	15.15	-0.24
Food Sector			
Kt. Cml. Co.	10.36	10.22	0.14
Ref. Ind.	82.36	82.36	—
Gulf Cables	113.13	113.13	—
KI. Pharm.	53.33	53.33	—
Sector Index	28.54	28.43	0.11
Services Sector			
Kt. Cmlr. Co.	131.76	131.76	—
Kt. Cinema Co.	7.32	7.32	—
Pub. W'house Co.	55.56	55.56	—
Kt. Comm. M.Co.	37.75	37.75	—
M. Tele. Syst.	350.00	355.00	-5.00
Sector Index	57.67	58.18	-0.51
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Transp.	25.63	25.63	—
Uld Fisheries	10.62	10.62	—
Kt. Uld Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Kt. Food Co.	68.97	68.97	—
Sector Index	37.19	37.19	—
Overall Index	39.49	39.70	-0.20

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

	Wed.	Wed.	Change
	09/05/90	02/04/90	points
First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	—
Bah. Int. Bk.	82.76	84.14	-1.38
Bah. M.E. Bk.	83.53	83.53	—
A. Cen. Inv. (Shua'a)	43.94	43.94	—
Umm Al-Q. Cent.	15.38	18.75	-3.37
Sharjah Cement*	18.01	18.26	-0.25
G. Med. Projs.	13.13	13.13	—
Total Index	51.93	52.74	-0.81

—Base period 31/12/1983.

—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Opec meeting set for July 26

VIENNA, May 12, (Agencies). The Opec oil ministers will meet in Geneva on July 26 for their mid-year conference to discuss output ceiling and redistribution of national quotas for the second half of the year.

A reliable source at the Opec secretariat here told Kuna today that the conference will be preceded by preliminary consultations by the eight-member oil price and production monitoring committee which will meet on July 25, one day before the conference.

The source predicted that another ministerial meeting would be held in Morocco late November at the invitation of the Moroccan monarch King Hassan II.

The Opec Secretary General Dr Subroto has earlier announced that the ministers accepted King Hassan's invitation to hold their year-end session in Morocco.

The price and production committee comprises oil ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Algeria, Nigeria, Indonesia and Venezuela.

He added, that the Opec economic committee will meet on July 24th in Geneva to work out resolutions on the world economy and its impact on the supply and demand at the world oil market.

Oil ministers of 13 Opec countries held an extraordinary meeting on May 2 in Geneva and decided to slash 1.5 million barrels from Opec daily oil production to stop the decline of oil prices.

Opec President and Algerian Oil Minister Abdelkader Boussena said yesterday he was optimistic world oil prices would soon reach the group's \$18-a-barrel minimum price.

Boussena said a recent oil price rally showed that "an output cut agreed in Geneva last week by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries was off to a good start."

"This is the beginning which gives us optimism. But the market is waiting for these decisions to cut production to be applied in the field," he said during an Algerian television show.

Opec agreed to cut April's 23.5 million barrels daily output by 1.445 million barrels every day until the end of July to reverse a 25 per cent slide in prices since January.

Prices have already shot up by some \$12 a barrel but are still short of the Opec reference price.

"We have guarantees from all the ministers at the meeting that in the coming weeks this decision (to cut output) will be implemented, to correct prices and return as soon as possible to the \$18 official price," Boussena said.

He called the Geneva meeting a success because Opec ministers realised how dangerous the oil price drop had become. "We reached a degree of danger that forced the organisation to unite," he said.

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Iraq to supply oil to Jordan

BAGHDAD, May 12, (Opecna). Representatives from the oil and energy ministries of Iraq and Jordan are here to put the final touches on an agreement to provide Jordan with Iraqi oil through a pipeline via Saudi Arabia.

Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Jordanian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, is leading his country's side to the talks, according to an official source here.

The project will enable Jordan to receive 18 million barrels of oil a year, about 49,300 b/d. The present cost of transportation will be cut by \$50 million annually because of the pipeline.

According to the AP-Dow Jones newsagency, Jordan is currently paying about \$400 million a year for its oil, buying it mainly from Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Some 70 per cent of Jordan's oil is trucked.

The accord is expected to be signed next week by Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi with his Jordanian counterpart.

Recently, Al Chalabi was quoted in the Amman newspaper "Al Rai" as saying that Iraq may supply Jordan with oil by extending a line linked to the "pipeline" which carried Saudi crude to Jordan.

The paper quoted industry sources as saying that the scheme would save Jordan between \$40 to \$50 million annually as expensive overland supplies would no longer be necessary.

In another development a growing number of oil tankers plying the Suez canal is likely to push its revenue to a record \$1.5 billion this year, 8.7 per cent up on last year, Canal Authority chairman Ezzat Adel said yesterday.

The 195-km (120-mile) waterway linking the Mediterranean and Red Seas is one of Cairo's main sources of foreign currency.

Revenue up to the end of April rose by \$55 million to \$510 million, a 12 per cent rise over last year, the Middle East News Agency quoted Adel as saying.



Dinner reception

Willine representative Ravinder Kumar Bhatia (centre) last week hosted a dinner reception for Willine customers and diplomats. Picture shows Alghani GM Capt. Jarl M. Kristensen, Kumar Bhatia and Ulf Gregersen. Indian Ambassador A.K. Budhiraja was the chief guest.

Move to help prices

Non-Opec may cut output

NICOSIA, May 12, (Reuters). The Energy Minister of Non-Opec Oman, Said Bin Ahmed Al Shanfari, said today independent oil producers might cut output to support Opec efforts to reverse a slide in oil prices.

"Non-Opec producers may, after discussions with Opec members, take steps to cut oil output," Tehran Radio quoted Shanfari as saying in a statement at the start of a visit to Iran. It gave no details.

Oman in the past has led non-Opec producers in a dialogue with Opec to stabilise oil prices.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed on May 3 to cut its total output by six per cent to around 22 million barrels per day (bpd), to prop up oil prices that plunged 25 per cent this year because of a glut.

Opec urged independent producers to help by cutting their own production.

Oman welcomed the Opec agreement and was willing to co-operate with the group, the radio, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Shanfari as saying. Omani output is about 650,000 barrels a day.

Shanfari said he would discuss the world oil market, as well as oil exploration in waters shared by Oman and Iran, with Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh.

Meanwhile Kuwait followed other Opec producers of oil yesterday in saying it is already doing something to curb output following an Opec accord in Geneva a week ago on measures to crase a new world glut.

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Economic news relieves Wall Street blues

NEW YORK, May 12, (AP). In the long-running debate over whether the American economy is growing too fast or too slowly, Wall Street has begun to entertain the possibility that neither side is right.

A surprising run of statistical reports in recent days has prompted some analysts to toy with the idea that conditions are close to a happy medium — favouring continued slow but steady growth without any drastic change in inflation.

Few people in the forecasting business are content simply to proclaim "clear skies ahead" and flip the switches off on their computer-powered crystal balls. As practitioners of the dismal science, they are paid to worry continuously about whatever might go wrong.

Still, just a few hints that the economy might be main-

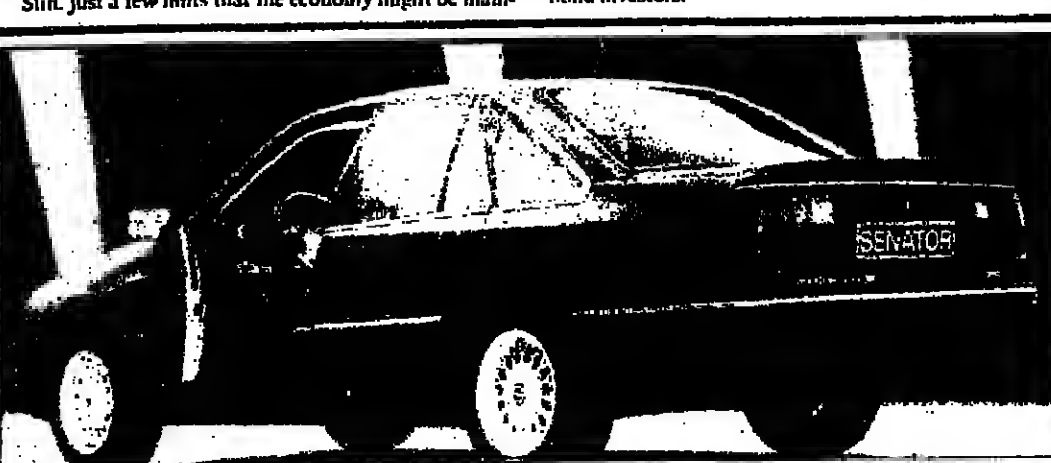
taining a healthy, sustainable momentum have been enough to lift the stock market to near-record levels of late.

For the moment, neither the inflation nor the recession worries that have beset the financial world in recent months appear to have come to fruition.

"Some economists are convinced that the economy could fall into a recession because there is a credit crunch in the financial markets," said Edward Yardeni at Prudential-Bache Securities.

"We've argued that this is just another scare which will soon blow away."

"Sofar the optimistic approach seems to be outperforming the pessimistic approach to investing, although we admit that the first four months of the year were not kind to bond investors."



Top award

The House of Industrial Design, Essen, Federal Republic of Germany, has recognised the Opel Calibra with its Design of the Highest Quality award. A jury of design innovations considered 750 products submitted by 299 companies and chose the Opel as the only automobile to receive the top award. Opel's 3.0-litre, 24-valve engine, which powers the Opel Omega and Senator models, was also recognised with a high quality of Design award.

US crude prices up

NEW YORK, May 12, (UPI). The price of US crude oil slipped slightly yesterday as gasoline skidded almost two cents a gallon, but crude still managed to end the week up nearly \$1 a barrel on indications Saudi Arabia was moving to ease the world glut.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for June delivery was down 7 cents on the day at \$18.05 a barrel but finished up 97 cents on the week.

Trading volume yesterday was a light 65,334 contracts. The WTI trading range was narrow — a high of \$19.01 and a low of \$18.83 a barrel.

Unleaded gasoline for June delivery fell 1.70 cents to 61.89 cents a gallon on the Merc but ended the week 0.77 cents higher.

Prompt delivery unleaded dropped 2.05 cents to 64.15 cents a gallon on the New York Harbour cash market but was still up 2.50 cents on the week.

Unleaded gasoline fell 3.3 cents on the US Gulf Coast cash market on top of Thursday's 3.8 cent loss.

The combined losses wiped out the 6.8 cent gain made on Wednesday in response to a temporary tightness in the Gulf Coast market.

"Friday's crude market was dead in the sense that trading range was very narrow and volume was light," said Randall Rothenber of Dean Witter Reynolds' International energy futures group in New York.

Amman expects stable currency

AMMAN, May 12. (Reuters): Jordan said yesterday it expected the dinar to remain stable and a debt rescheduling agreement with the London Club commercial bank creditors to be agreed soon.

"We intend to stabilise the dinar/dollar rate at the current level which is most adequate," Central Bank Governor Mohammed Said Al Nahsli told reporters at a Ministry of Information weekly press briefing.

"Various (economic) indicators point to a stable situation for at least a year," he said.

Jordan turned to the International Monetary Fund a year ago after hard currency shortages forced it to suspend most foreign debt payments. The debt stood at \$8.06 billion at the end of 1989, compared to \$5.3 billion a year earlier.

Amman has reached bilateral debt rescheduling agreements with the Paris Club of official creditors except Britain, Belgium and Sweden and expects to sign a final rescheduling accord with banks in the London Club of creditors in a month.

"There is absolutely no difference on the restructuring everything is normal and there is nothing to stop a full accord which we expect to be signed in a month's time," he said.

Officials say the long-delayed accord on a \$1.1 billion bank debt with the London Club would pave the way for new loans of up to \$50 million.

In March, Jordan repaid the last part of the London Club arrears of \$80 million originally due by the end of 1989, and plans to use the new money partly to cover 1990 interest due to banks.

The London Club steering committee agreed in November the fresh loans would carry interest at 13/16 point over Libor to be paid at the end of their three-year term, diplomats say.

Nahsli said stabilising economic indicators included an expected 25 per cent increase in remittances from Jordanians working abroad, a stable balance of trade and Arab aid of around \$400 million, he added.

"He said Amman had received \$20 million from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan budgeted for \$360 million in Arab aid for 1990 and is hopeful oil-rich Arab states will give it the much needed assistance."

Nahsli said he expected a total of \$750 to \$800 million in remittances in 1990, up on last year's \$600 to \$650 million.

He said this week's mild fluctuations in the dinar's value against the dollar in the black market was not indicative of any weakening of the dinar.

While the dollar has been falling against the dinar at the Central Bank official rate because of a decline in its value on the international market, it firmed slightly on the black market during the past week.

The Central Bank's fixed rates have ranged between 667.0/671.0 to the dollar while it was trading for 690.0/700.0 on the black market compared to 682.0/680.5 a week earlier.

US producer prices dip

WASHINGTON, May 12. (Reuters): The US government on Friday reported a fall in producer prices and retail sales for a second straight month, strengthening the case for lower interest rates to stimulate a weakening economy.

The prospect of easing inflation and lower interest rates sent stocks and bonds soaring and the dollar down. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 50 points to 2,788.50 at 3 pm EDT (1900 GMT).

A sharp drop in food and energy costs pushed the producer price index down 0.3 per cent last month after an 0.2 per cent decline in March, the Labour Department said.

Retail sales dropped 0.6 per cent — their sharpest tumble in six months — after slipping 0.2 per cent in March, the Commerce Department reported.

Wall Street economists had expected producer prices, which eventually affect prices at the consumer level, to climb 0.2 per cent and retail sales to grow by 0.3 per cent.

But the slumping figures showed the economy was much weaker than thought, building a consensus among economists that interest rates may be headed down.

"It could be we are seeing the start of a modest turn-down in the economy," said Hugh Johnson of First Albany Corp.

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	16.890
Sri Lankan rupee	7.350
Pakistani rupee	13.370
Bangladesh taka	8.440
US dollar	290.90
Pound sterling	489.75
UAE dirham	0.7916
Deutsche mark	1.7800
Japanese yen	0.01914

Japan eyes more LNG imports to meet power needs

TOKYO, May 12. (Reuters): Fast-growing energy demand and the need to cut pollution will spur substantial growth in Japan's liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports and the Middle East could become a major supplier, industry sources and analysts said.

"Demand for LNG from the Japanese electric power industry is likely to increase by 8.5 million tonnes over the next 10 years and demand from gas utilities will rise by 5.5 million tonnes over the same period," said Masatoshi Shioiri, analyst at UBS Philips and

Drew International Ltd. Japan imported 33.09 million tonnes of LNG in 1989, up 7.6 per cent from 30.77 million tonnes in 1988. MITI statistics show. About 75 per cent was for electric power use and the rest for gas companies.

"It is highly possible the government will revise its forecast of Japanese LNG demand sharply upward," said Tsutomu Toichi, chief economist at the Institute of Energy Economics (IEE) Japan. The institute expects demand in the year 2000 to be 48 million tonnes.

against 38 million estimated by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

MITI expects to complete a revision of its long-term energy outlook by the end of May.

Japan currently has contracts allowing it to import a total of 38 million tonnes of LNG a year, and could squeeze another 14 to 15 million tonnes from existing supply sources, Toichi said.

If carbon dioxide emission controls to deal with the environmental

problems of global warming become stricter, this will not be enough, Toichi said, and Japan would have to look for new projects.

Such new LNG capacity would help replace coal and oil-fired power generation. LNG emits about half the carbon dioxide of oil when burned.

About 52 per cent of total LNG imports in 1989 came from Indonesia, 20 per cent from Malaysia, 16 per cent from Brunei, seven per cent from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), three per cent from the US and the rest from

Australia and Algeria, according to MITI figures.

The new interest in LNG also results from greater Japanese government concern about securing stable sources of energy supply.

Many of the known LNG supplies are located in politically stable areas such as Australia, Alaska and South-east Asia, whereas much of Japan's oil supply comes from the politically unstable Middle East, UBS Philips and Drew's Shioiri said.

Japanese utilities, however, already have sufficient long-term LNG contracts to meet demand and are unwilling to expand their sources actively because of the high cost of developing new supplies, industry sources said.

Qatar, for instance, has strong interest in selling LNG to Japan, but Japanese users are still hesitant to contribute to development projects so far away, they said.

"LNG tankers are very expensive and the longer distance means that you need more tankers," one source said.

A help programme needed to stop economic collapse

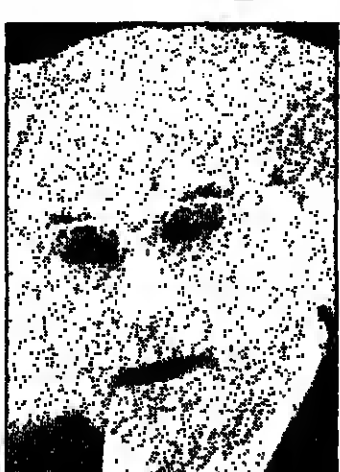
Germans to finalise monetary union pact

BONN, May 12. (Reuters): East and West Germany raced ahead today to finalise agreement on monetary union, despite warnings that the merger of their divergent economic systems could create mass unemployment and social unrest in the East.

Negotiators meeting in Bonn hoped to resolve their final disagreements by Sunday and complete a draft treaty to apply West Germany's strong currency and free-market laws in East Germany on July 2. The treaty is the first major step to full political union.

Most details are settled, including the vital rates for exchanging the East German marks into West German marks, but East Berlin wants protection against West German property speculators and a better deal for its old or poor citizens.

These two groups will suffer most when subsidies are scrapped and rents and prices rocket in East Germany during the transformation from a government-run Marxist economy to a West-



Helmut Kohl

tern-style free market one.

Bonn's Chancellor Minister Rudolf Seiters said there was still a chance that the treaty, which the Bonn cabinet hopes to approve on Friday, would not be ready until later in the coming week.

He told Cologne Express newspaper the weekend talks would focus on social welfare, property

rights and ways to prevent speculators making a killing in the currency exchange.

West Germany's Der Spiegel news magazine said East German Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel was preparing for social unrest as he expected the number of jobless people to reach 2.5 to four million — in a country of just 16 million people.

It said in a report released ahead of publication on Monday that Diestel had asked Bonn to provide extra riot gear for East Germany's police, including 8,000 shields and 900 pistols.

East German Employment Minister Regine Hildebrandt told the magazine that special transition rules were needed to protect East German firms from mass bankruptcy and unemployment while they adapted to open competition.

She said the East's employment situation was desperate. Bonn would have to invest quickly in a job creation programme if it wanted to avoid a renewed flood of immigrants to

the West.

Stefan Hilsberg, party manager of the East German Social Democrats (SPD) in the coalition government, told the West German newspaper Bild that some party leaders wanted to quit the coalition unless Bonn gave pensioners a better deal. He warned that large-scale strikes were possible.

Wolfgang Roth, economics expert for the West German SPD, said a help programme was needed to stop economic collapse. "It was clear from the start that this heading drive into the world economy would wreck whole sectors in East Germany," he said.

West Germans must foot the huge bill for monetary and economic union but Chancellor Helmut Kohl, with an eye to West German elections in December, has promised not to raise taxes.

About 5,000 left-wing demonstrators marched through the centre of Frankfurt, West Germany's financial capital, today to protest against German unification.

Toyota to build cars in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Turkey, May 12. (AP): The Japanese automaker Toyota, Mitsui Co. Ltd. of Japan and the Sabanci Group of Turkey will set up a joint venture and start turning out 20,000 cars a year within three years, company officials said today.

Ozdemir Sabanci, head of the automotive group of the Haci Omer Sabanci holding A.S. told a news conference that a company named Toyotasa will be founded by July with initial capital of \$150 million. He said the total investment for the project will be around \$250 million.

He said his group would own 50 per cent of Toyotasa, Toyota would hold 40 per cent and Mitsui 10 per cent.

Sabanci said the construction of the plant in Hendek township some 160 kilometers (100 miles) east of Istanbul would start before January and was expected to be completed in 1992.

The company will start turning out 20,000 cars annually by 1993 and could reach a capacity of 100,000 by 1995, he said. The company in Turkey will produce four-door luxury sedan models of the Corona, Corolla and Cressida.

Sabanci said they started setting up a sales and service organisation and would begin importing Toyotas by November.

"We hope to play a positive role in the economic growth of Turkey," said Eiji Toyoda, the president of Toyota's executive council.

Sakip Sabanci, the president of Sabanci's executive council, told the news conference foreign investment was important not only as a source of capital but also because it brings in high technology, management techniques and know-how.

Toyotasa will be competing with four other auto manufacturers in Turkey.

The Tofas A.S. Oyak-Renault A.S. and Otosan groups last year produced a total of 112,000 cars in Turkey, while 6,000 other cars were imported.

Adam Opel AG, a West German subsidiary of General Motors Corp., of the United States, is building an assembly plant in the Aegean coastal city of Izmir which will have an annual capacity of 10,000 cars.

Bush seeks co-operation on deficit

President calls for negotiations

KINGSVILLE, Texas, May 12. (Reuters): President George Bush, seeking to calm a political storm brewing over remarks by his chief of staff, appealed to Congress on Friday for co-operation in cutting the escalating federal budget deficit.

He said the deficit had not reached the crisis stage but would be very difficult to bring under control.

"We're not dealing in a crisis mentality but we've got a major deficit to give," Bush told reporters on Air Force One on his way to give a speech at Texas A&M and Industry University.

"We need co-operation because it isn't going to be easy," Bush said. "It's going to be very difficult."

Bush's Chief of Staff John Sununu had earlier angered the Democratic leadership by suggesting that during upcoming talks on the budget the Democrats would propose tax hikes but that Bush would rebuff them.

But Bush said: "I made this proposal that we meet with no conditions and that's exactly the way it's going to be."

Bush's remarks were his first public comments on the budget since requesting the talks between Congress and the White House on a looming fiscal crisis far more serious than his own advisers had predicted a few months ago.

The President called for negotiations, started to begin on Tuesday, after administration experts projected that the federal deficit may exceed legally-mandated limits by as much as \$100 billion.

Under federal law, the deficit must fall to \$64 billion by Oct 1, when the next fiscal year begins. Automatic across-the-board spending cuts go into effect if that deadline is not met.

Bush, who made the slogan "read my lips, no new taxes" a key element of his 1988 presidential campaign, refused to say what options he would propose in the talks with Congress.

"I'm not going to show you my hand and I haven't seen a lot of hands being laid down on the Hill (Capitol Hill)," Bush said referring to the secretive stance of congressional leaders.

"That's the way it ought to be," said Bush, who has urged all parties to adopt a code of silence once negotiations begin.

Asked whether he would consider higher taxes, Bush said: "It would not be dealing in good faith if I started going into these details."



Farewell dinner hosted

The executive committee of the NRI Investors Forum hosted a farewell dinner for two of its outgoing members at the Kuwait Continental. Harish Dhutia, convenor of the functions committee and an ex-joint-secretary, and N. Ramchandran, general manager, STC and an executive committee member, are seen with the farewell trophies.

Smuggling just one problem as Yemens prepare to merge

SANAA, May 12. (Reuters): A huge smuggling operation controlled by fiercely independent North Yemeni tribesmen is just one of the problems the two Yemens face as they prepare to merge by the end of May after 300 years as separate states.

A steady stream of vehicles laden with smuggled electronic goods and foodstuffs rolls south daily along the main paved road linking the North Yemeni capital Sanaa with its northern towns.

Bankers and economists say the black market trade with neighbouring Saudi Arabia is worth around \$2 billion a year and supplies most of North Yemen's private sector needs.

The smuggling, which bypasses draconian import restrictions set last year, deprives the government of customs revenue and seriously bampers its ability to plan and control the economy.

Bankers say the tough import rules, aimed at curbing the north's chronic trade deficit, have also encouraged people to

spend more money on luxury smuggled goods, rather than investing in private businesses.

Both Yemens are expected to gain from a merger which officials hope will bring foreign investment into the formerly socialist south and allow the pro-Western north to share in its partner's greater oil refining and production capacity.

But economists say teething problems caused by debt, lack of foreign exchange and poorly-developed banking and industrial infrastructure will be painful for the new state of 12 million people on the south-western tip of the Arabian peninsula.

"It's difficult to say what will happen because there is not much complementarity between the two economies and neither is in good shape at the moment," one economist said.

Last July, North Yemen boosted tax receipts by telling owners of smuggled cars it would register the vehicles if they paid one third of the official 150 per cent duty.

Ethiopia slashes personal taxes

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, May 12. (AP): The government has slashed personal and business taxes in ongoing reforms to boost Ethiopia's economy, retarded by over a decade of Marxist practices.

The official Ethiopian News Agency reported today the state cut taxation on personal income about \$18,000 a year from 89 per cent to 59 per cent.

Taxation on dividends was also reduced from 25 per cent to 10 per cent, the news agency said, quoting a statement from the Ministry of Finance.

"The tax reductions are expected to encourage private investors to increase their working capital and to create more job opportunities," the statement said.

A new investment code has already been published and for the first time in 15 years permits local and overseas investors to participate in early all aspects of the economy.

New compact wagon and van

TOKYO, May 12. (UPI): Nissan Motor Co. announced Friday the domestic release of all-new compact wagon and commercial van, featuring a spacious interior and improved performance.

The Tokyo-based automaker said the "Avenir" wagon, developed around the concept of orthodox styling, offers a spacious interior and agile performance.

In addition to incorporating all features of the wagon, the Avenir cargo provides outstanding practicality as a commercial van, the company said.

It said the wagon will be available with either the SR20DE or SR18DE 16-valve, twin-cam, in-line 4-cylinder engine.

The van offers a choice of two new powerplants, the GA16DS 16-valve, twin-cam, in-line 4-cylinder engine or the CD20 OHC in-line 4-cylinder diesel engine, which features quietness and fuel economy, the company said.

The company said it projects monthly sales totalling 4,000 units.

Retail prices range from 1.016 million yen to 2.02 million yen (\$6,500-13,000).

Diplomats in Sanaa said many owners came forward because it was less expensive than paying bribes at road checkpoints.

In a move to speed up the flow of remittances from workers abroad and close the gap between official and black market exchange rates, North Yemen devalued its riyal by 23 per cent in February. Economists say this was "little too late."

Both Yemens have been hit hard by a steep decline in remittances from their expatriates working in oil-rich Gulf states, where their main source of foreign exchange. They include an estimated 1.3 million Yemenis in Saudi Arabia.

In the case of North Yemen, this plunged to around \$255 million in 1989 from a peak of 1.2 billion in 1982.

The combined debts of the two Yemens amount to around \$5 billion. But bankers say most of the total comprises soft loans from the Soviet Union, the World Bank, and Arab funds or governments.

Last January North Yemen rescheduled an estimated \$300 million of commercial debt, mainly letters of credit.

South Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, borrows less and has a reputation for always paying on time.

North Yemen Foreign Minister Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani told Reuters recently that his country was preparing a commercial investment law. It would also apply to the South which has been liberalising its economic and political institutions ahead of the merger.

A statement issued in Sanaa last week declared the currencies of both countries legal tender in either state, a first step in establishing a common currency.

Finance ministers of both countries are due to draw up a budget for the unified state by May 20.

Diplomats say a major challenge will be whether a united Yemen can attract back entrepreneurs who left the South when Aden turned socialist after independence from Britain in 1967.

Remittances likely to rise

Jordan gets UAE aid

AMMAN, May 12. (AP): Central Bank Governor Mohammad Said Nahsli announced yesterday that Jordan received a \$20-million grant from the United Arab Emirates and said that more Arab aid was expected to help this country overcome its financial crisis.

The bank official added that he was unhappy with an initial draft agreement with the London Club of creditors for finalising a \$580-million rescheduling package.

He said the bank's foreign currency reserves reached \$390 million, including the new aid received.

He said last year reserves were registered at \$200 million in the red, with their lowest around April 1989 when the country was wracked by four days of rioting sparked by economic problems.

The bank official added that the figure does not include an additional Arab central bank deposit totalling \$100 million considered as second line reserves for the next five years.

But last month, Finance Minister Basel Jaradat said that Jordan's total currency reserves were estimated at \$500 million and he expected them to increase to \$650 million before the end of the year.

But Nahsli stressed that the expected Arab aid will not exceed \$400 million. Jordan has always relied on oil-rich Arab states as its primary financial donor. A shortfall of previously pledged Arab aid to Jordan has led to the country's decline in foreign currency reserves and a total foreign debt of \$8.3 billion by the end of 1988.

As a result of the debt burden, Jordan in November 1988 introduced an economic adjustment programme and sought international creditors' help to reschedule its debts.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) May 11, '90	Pr. Cl	Open	Close
ACC	464	476	475
Alum Chem	—	—	—
Alu Nis	—	—	—
Asi Fab	89	85	87
Asi Leas	236.25	237.50	241.25
Asia Pami	37	36	38
Atlas Corp	67.50	63	67.50
Nat Index	420.65	448.75	445
Bajaj Auto	848.75	860	867.50
Bar Rayon	216.50	224	218
Bomb Dst	118	116	115
BK Bond	75	70	78
Burr Wei	—	—	—
Canshare	3650	3800	3750
Cen Enka	3210	3250	3250
Cen Sps	207.50	207.50	211.25
Colgate	1060	1030	1050
Cromt Gr	—	—	—

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average	31512.14	Mazda MC	869
(+531.88)		Mitsubishi Corp	1450
Volume: 690 mil shs		Mitsubishi H E	1620
Yen exchange rate 154.15		Mitsubishi R E	979
News of stock		Mitsubishi R E	1910
Advantage Corp	2410	Mitsubishi R E	1800
Aijomoto	5160	Mitsubishi R E	3930
Alps Elec	2940	Mitsubishi R E	3830
Asahi Glass	1660	NEC Corp	2120
Asahi Ind	907	Nikon Corp	1410
Asahi Ind	1830	Nippon Steel Corp	1210
C. Itoh Co	868	Nippon Steel Corp	1110
Canon Inc	1770	Nippon Steel Corp	2150
Casio Comp	1730	Nitaku Corp	1400
Dai Nippon Printing	1920	Nitaku Corp	2300
Daiichi Sanyaku	2550	Okuma Mach	1530
Dainippon Ph	2820	Osaka K Co	1930
Daiichi Sanyaku	1730	Orix Corp	4550
Eiei	1860	Pioneer Elec Co	6020
Fanuc Ltd	7250	Renova Look Inc	1910
Fuji Photo	4160	Sanyo Elec Co	833
Fujitsu Ltd	1430	Sanyo Elec Co	1650
Hitachi Corp	1530	Shin-Etsu Chem	1650
Hitachi Koki	2200	Shindengen Elec	1180
Hitachi Ltd	1590	Sony Corp	8710
Hitachi Metal	1510	Sunimono Elec Ind	1510
Honda Motor	1830	Sunimono Elec Ind	1510
Ito Yokado Co	4040	Takeda Chemical	1820
Kajima Corp	1760	TDK Corp	6880
Kawasaki H I	873	Tokyo Marine & Fire	1530
Kobe Cast Iron	1250	Tokyo Elec Power	4410
Kokusai Elec	4880	Tokyo Electron Ltd	3930

Getting a crying infant to settle down and sleep is one of the hardest jobs a parent can face. FAITH MALL talks to the experts and finds there CAN be a peaceful solution

IT is the early hours of the morning, you just got into bed after putting the baby to sleep... and suddenly the crying starts again. This isn't a nightmare but reality for parents with toddlers who won't stop screaming throughout the night.

A child with sleeping problems can leave you at your wits' end and cause great distress. But if you suffer from sleepless nights, you are not alone. Recent figures released by the British Medical Association show that up to 30 per cent of babies don't sleep through the night.

The BMA say the most common sleep problems in young children are those of wakefulness — either difficulties in settling at bedtime, or failure to sleep all night without interruptions.

But experts can't agree on what causes children to stay awake. The bedroom being too hot or too dark is one theory, others claim it is the parents' fault.

Mother of two Glenda Brown is Britain's first health care worker who specialises in solving the problems caused by babies who won't — or can't — go to sleep.

The 40-year-old from Newcastle upon Tyne has worked with more than 500 families over the past four years and says the main causes of sleepless nights are medical conditions.

She told me eczema, colic, wind and teething problems are painful and can stop children from sleeping. Often the parents suspect their tot may be ill but are reluctant to call a doctor.

"Other children suffer from food allergies and react to the mother's milk which again keeps them awake. But it's very distressing for the parent who doesn't know what is making their baby cry."

Glenda says breast-feeding babies can be kept awake because of the frequencies of feeds. She said problems come when the child who is used to staying up to eat won't go to sleep even if he isn't hungry.

According to health worker, a baby's environment is also important. "A child is usually quite happy to sleep in a warm and quiet room. Babies who are cold in their cots will cry to be picked up and when put in the parents' bed, which is much warmer, will fall asleep straight away."

A wet nappy may also be keeping the baby awake. "Although it sounds so simple, parents sometimes forget to check that their child is dry when it's crying," said Glenda. "But the problem is rarely as easy as that to solve."

She speaks from experience. When her eldest daughter was growing up, Glenda and her husband spent endless nights trying to get the child to sleep.



A toddler that won't stop screaming through the night can cause distress.

When baby's bedtime is a nightmare for mum

"We'd get her to go to sleep and 10 minutes later she would be up again crying. We tried everything but nothing worked."

"I became very irrational and used to walk down the street resented strangers who had slept all night. Our doctor couldn't help and luckily my daughter eventually grew out of the habit."

"But unless you've been through the problem yourself, you can't possibly understand how distressing it is for the parents."

"One mother was at the end of her tether when she came to see me. She felt as if her life was over because all she ever did was try to put her baby to sleep."

"She looked very tired and only after helping her could I see that not sleeping had done to her because she suddenly looked younger and totally unrecognisable."

"Another woman told Glenda she had come close to harming her child because of lack of sleep. The sleep counsellor told me: 'The mother had four other children and hadn't had any problems with them. Then the fifth came along and the baby wouldn't sleep.'

"It hit her like a bolt out of the blue and, when I saw her, this gentle loving mother had turned into desperate woman."

Caroline Anderson agrees that parents suffer more than we

think. Her support group Crysis offers parents of children who can't sleep help.

She told me: "Parents come to us when they just can't go on. They blame themselves and feel helpless." Many are unable to cope and want her shoulders to cry on.

"Mothers need the most help because they feel isolated and find there isn't anyone they can talk to — not even their own husbands."

Sleep disturbance can cause marriage problems. In a survey few years ago, members of the National Association for Parents of Sleepless Children agreed that life with a sleepless baby could wreck a marriage.



Play with the child before bedtime to tire him out.

Some parents said marital relations were non-existent because their sleepless children were sharing their bed.

Glenda Brown says the problems are common among parents of tots with sleeping problems. She told me: "A baby that won't go to sleep can put pressures on the marriage because in many cases the mother is too tired to have any sexual relations with her husband."

"When she's not running around for the baby, all she wants to do is sleep and she no longer has time for her partner."

So what are the solutions? Glenda recommends a sleep diary which she believes can help understand the problem.

"I tell them to write a record of when and why the baby gets up. From this they can see the extent of the problem and any pattern that emerges. A diary is very helpful in finding the best time to put your child to sleep both during the day and night."

She also tells mothers to establish daily bedtime ritual. Glenda explained: "It is important to have a wind-down period and to relax the child."

"Mothers should start preparing their babies for bed at about 6 pm. If they play with the baby, give it a bath and feed it, it is likely to fall asleep immediately."

Dr Jay Jayachandran claims he has a five-point system which will ensure a good night's sleep for baby and mother. In his book

Child management — Five Basic Principles, the consultant paediatrician at Oldham and District General Hospital says: "I can cure this problem which has mystified parents."

His programme is:

- Accept the baby as an individual human being from day one, not a toy that can be put away when you are bored with it.
- Give your child its freedom. Don't force it to eat when it leaves food or play games when it doesn't want to.
- Show who is boss. Let babies cry themselves to sleep at night. Giving in to attention-seeking is wrong.
- Never argue in front of a baby. It will respond to stable emotions and responsible attitudes.
- Use properly-run nurseries and play schools. Busy housewives may not have the time and skills to aid a toddler's learning process.

A recently-devised, man-made solution to this tiresome problem is Babyshh. Developed by physicist Ian Samson, the small box emits "white noise" similar to the sound of a running water.

The noise is amplified by an ordinary telephone ear-piece. The sound is at its loudest for the first thirty seconds to attract the baby's attention.

In a test carried out at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London 80 per cent of the twenty babies fell asleep within five minutes of the device being switched on.

Dying forests and the nuclear dilemma

As the people of Czechoslovakia prepare for elections in June, it is evident that all parties will need to pay attention to environmental issues if they wish to be in the running.

By Tomas Sniegou

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia: More than half of Czechoslovakia's forests have been damaged. More than three million tonnes of sulphur dioxide escape into the air each year.

These and many other facts, published practically daily, are enabling the public to learn about the ecological catastrophe in Czechoslovakia. Under the communist regime, smoking chimneys were presented as a symbol of good work. But, in practice, citizens were unable to participate in decisions about ecologically important projects. It was only after the political events of November 1989 that any objective information about the conditions under which Czechoslovak people have to live could at last reach the public.

In the past, not only was publication of such facts prohibited but in many cases the information was distorted. Czechoslovakia has been waiting 27 years for a law on handling waste material, and a general law on the environment simply does not exist. Some legal acts directly contradict other regulations in this chaotic sphere.

Obsolete industry, incompetent and shortsighted decisions of the old administrative structures, and the pursuit of the highest profits without investment in equipment, are all to be blamed for the present ecological crisis. The country is covered with hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of toxic waste dumps, which could jeopardise the lives of people in nearby communities.

As well as the dying forests, the most urgent problems include: water pollution; poor quality drinking water; damaged soil; highly polluted air, particularly near industrial areas with heavy and chemical industries, and those using radioactive material; shops stacked with food-stuffs harmful to the lives of the people; and the future of nuclear power stations.

According to public opinion polls, about 83 per cent of Czechs and Slovaks consider the improvement of the environment the most important task of the coming period.

In the Czech part of the country, only 15 per cent of the area is now considered as suitable for human habitation, and houses only 700,000 people. Extremely impaired areas represent about 10 per cent of the republic's territory, and are inhabited by 5.5 million people. (The total 1980 population of Czech lands was 10.3 million.) Environmental damage from excessive production or escaping toxic agents is gradually increased on 80 per cent of the Czech republic territory.

Such measures as clearing 156 hectares (385 acres) of forest near Hranicev in the Giant Mountains merely to facilitate an international skiing competition, or decisions to organise car and motor-cycle races in the countryside with the state paying only lip service to protection, would not have been supported by the public in the past — had the public been consulted.

Industrial emissions have affected forests in nearly all the northern part of the country. The situation is particularly critical in the mountain regions, where the forests are the most fragile.

In the past, the forests were financially profitable for the state; but capital investments in woodlands were negligible, insufficient to keep forests at a productive level.

A completely new idea to achieve an effective forest economy — a proposal which should be passed by the end of 1990 — is to privatise about 5 per cent of the woodlands. In 1945, 53 per cent of forests were privately owned; in 1950, after the introduction of the communist regime and nationalisation, this figure was already only 10.1 per cent and in 1985 it was merely 0.2 per cent.

Nuclear power stations remain one of the most debated problems. It seems evident that Czechoslovakia's energy needs cannot be met without nuclear power, since the alternative thermal power stations have been polluting the environment with sulphur dioxide and other toxic agents. But nuclear safety will have to be emphasised more strongly in future. Czech Minister of Environment Bedrich Moldan said recently that "the demand to abolish absolutely the nuclear energy programme immediately could be as unreasonable as to follow the old policy."

It is clear that no party which aspires to a leading role will be able to gain the support of voters in the forthcoming elections unless it pays attention to the environment. Environment-friendly technologies are expensive and most of them must be imported.

Ordinary people link the coming period not only with hopes for increased economic prosperity, but also with cleaner air to breathe and with a better environment in general. (Panos)



Nefertiti-Akhnaton Egyptian royals to be reunited at cultural meet

BERLIN, (WNL): A 3,300-year-old couple — Egyptian King Akhnaton and Queen Nefertiti — have had an adventurous time in Europe since arriving in Berlin at the beginning of this century. The centuries-old husks of the royal pair were found in a tomb in southern Egypt by the German-Orient Society, which brought them to Berlin.

These silent witnesses to the follies of modern Europeans survived the bombs of World War II but were separated when Germany was carved between East and West in 1945. Only now, with the two Germanies nearing unification, will they be brought together again in what promises to be a major museum complex richer than most.

As the Soviet Army advanced on Berlin in the last months of the war, Nefertiti was spirited out of the city to a cave in southern Germany. After Germany was defeated she fell into the hands of the Allies, was taken to the West German town of Wiesbaden and in 1956 returned to West Berlin. Today, extravagantly lit by concealed spotlights in the Egyptian Museum in Charlottenburg, Nefertiti stares nobly eastward from behind a thick glass shield.

Like her husband, Akhnaton, Nefertiti had a lucky escape. At the peak of the war part of the Egyptian Collection was moved to a castle near Mecklenburg and was destroyed in 1945 during a last-ditch battle between Hitler's SS and the advancing Soviet Army.

Another part of the collection of priceless antiques had been hidden in a bunker

to protect it from Allied air raids. The treasures were destroyed not by bombs but by agents of Hitler who wanted nothing left to the victors.

Akhnaton survived that attempt at destruction and fell into the hands of the Soviets, who ceded their share of the Egyptian Collection off to Moscow and Leningrad as war booty. But when a friendly regime was installed in East Germany, the plunder was returned to East Berlin's Bode Museum. There Akhnaton, his face disfigured and distorted in an expression of silent pain gazes westward toward his consort on the other side of the Berlin Wall.

Thus the fate of two ancient statues from the tomb of Tel el-Amarna, near the southern Egyptian city of Minya, became interwoven with the violent 20th-century history of Germany. And now, as the planners in Bonn and East Berlin map out the future of a united Germany following the collapse of the East German Communist government, the royal Egyptian couple are to meet again.

In the days following the opening of the Berlin Wall last November, Professor Wolf-Dieter Dube, the general director of West Berlin's Museums Authority, sat down with the heads of the 29 state museums in East and West Berlin and started planning the structure of what will be one of the richest and largest single cultural organizations in the world.

"We never believed we would have this moment in our sights in our lifetimes," said Professor Dube of the consolidation of the art collections. "Now we have it

The reunification of the two Germanys will bring together an ancient beauty, Queen Nefertiti, and her king husband in what promises to be one of the world's richest museums

before us. But it will take time."

Time — and money. Bringing the collections together again will cost two billion West German marks (more than \$1.2 billion), a considerable portion of which will go to rebuilding the former Egyptian Museum. Known as the New Museum, it was built in 1830 near Unter den Linden, Berlin's main avenue. Reconstruction has just begun on the fire-ravaged ruins of the building.

Another casualty of the war was the exchange of information. For 40 years the East German regime guarded the pre-war files and inventories of the Berlin museums as jealously as it guarded its state secrets.

Karl-Heinz Priese, director of the East Berlin Egyptian Museum, remembers those not-so-distant days: "We needed the Ministry's permission for absolutely everything. Now, if I want to talk to my colleagues in West Berlin, I just have to get into the S-Bahn (urban railway) and I'm there in half an hour. Before, I had to apply for a foreign currency allowance, and so on. Everything was controlled, and official contact with our colleagues in the West was forbidden — though we did sometimes meet privately, of

course."

Museum curators from both sides are getting to know each other fast at regular meetings. But because of the secrecy that veiled the museum files for so long, it will take two years for Professor Dube to find out exactly what Berlin possesses and what was lost in the war.

While West Germany pumped funds into its museums in West Berlin as a way of strengthening the cultural identity of the island city during the Cold War, East Berlin's museums suffered from corruption and overstaffing, and the reek of cheap disinfectant. Visitors would find museums and galleries unexpectedly closed, and priceless treasures languished neglected in storerooms or, in some cases, disappeared altogether.

The museums in East Berlin will now have to be streamlined according to Western standards of economy, which means drastic personnel cuts. "It is very hard to talk of long-term concepts with people who don't know if they will still be in their offices in a year's time," comments Professor Dube. With typical West German efficiency, Dube has already outlined the future for Berlin's collections.

The Ethnological, Far Eastern and Indian Collections will remain in the leafy West Berlin suburb of Dahlem. European art will find a home in the complex of modern buildings that make up the Kulturforum, south of Potsdamer Platz. The famous Museum Island, with its magnificent Assyrian, Greek and Roman collection already in place at the Pergamon Museum, will house the archaeological possessions.

The Berlin collections include some of the world's finest treasures. In the Pergamon visitors find whole temples, taken stone by stone from their sites and rebuilt inside the museum. The collection, like that in the British Museum or the Louvre in Paris, is a remarkable monument to both the many cultures it represents and to the erudite politics of European imperialism, which simply transferred much of the artistic heritage of a colonized country to the collections of Europe by sheer force of money and might.

But museum officials in Berlin reject recent requests for the return of famous pieces, such as the bust of Nefertiti, to their countries of origin.

"It's really remarkable," says Professor Dube, "to watch how the old lines of communication in Central Europe are suddenly re-establishing themselves as though it was the most natural thing in the world. Because of the opening of the city to Eastern and Northern Europe, Berlin will inevitably find itself once more in the cultural position it attained between 1900 and 1930."

Bernadette musical — a dream come true

LONDON, (UPI): The story behind the musical *Bernadette* sounds like the plot of a musical itself.

Two small-town teachers, who used to write plays for their pupils, dreamed that one of their ideas was strong enough to be a hit in London's West End, perhaps, on Broadway.

The idea was the story of Bernadette, the simple French country girl who said she had a vision of the Virgin Mary near Lourdes, and the bitter controversy this caused before believers made it a

place of pilgrimage for millions.

They wrote words and music telling the entire story in song and dance — melodious and modern, according to those who have heard it — and then began the task of persuading producers in the far away big city that a hit musical was waiting for them in provincial Shrewsbury, 160 miles (250 km) northwest of London.

Show business, they learned, as the rejections piled up, is not the protected environment of the classroom, but Maureen and Gwyn Hughes are not the

average songwriting team either.

For one thing Maureen, who writes the lyrics and teaches drama, is a grandmother. Gwyn, her younger second husband, was a piano tuner with ambitions to compose and teach music.

"We had a lot of hard knocks but when they came we had each other so we kept on going," Maureen Hughes said.

The thought of giving up hardly entered their minds. Many parents had praised them for their work with children. And the local education board had even sent them on a summer tour of

American schools. On the advice of a theatrical agent to be more accessible they sold their house and furniture, moved into rented rooms and got jobs in a school on the fringe of the metropolis.

In their spare time they worked on the show. While tapping a new song one day, using their students as a chorus, they overheard one of them say her father wanted to sell his trucking firm and become a theatrical producer.

"It was my daughter," said William Fofe whose firm, Willie's Wheels, specialized in

transporting film studio equipment.

With a successful businessman abroad as producer things began to happen. Fofe had the tape of the score played to several thousand people involved in the show's production.

"Everybody likes it but the West End producers," he said. "We'll call it *The People's Musical*. 'And we'll ask the people to help back it. Not with their life savings but as though they were having a flutter (bet) on a horse. Small angels.'"

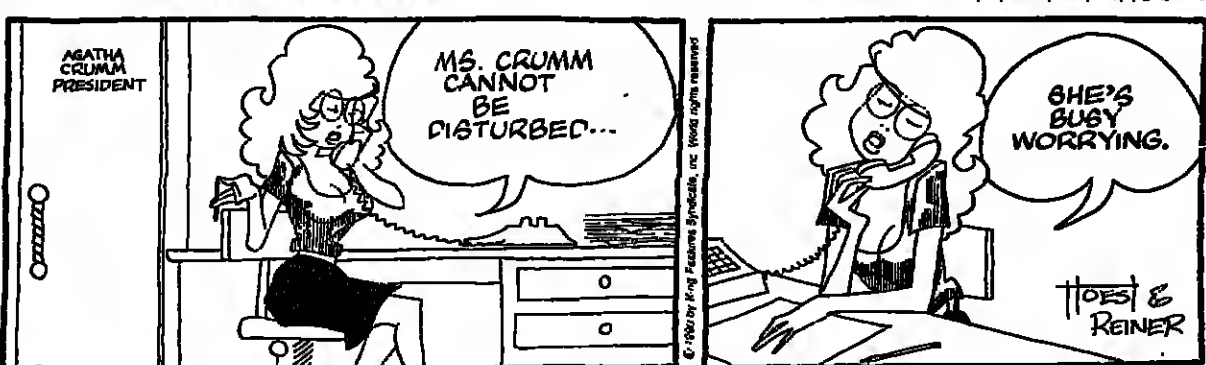
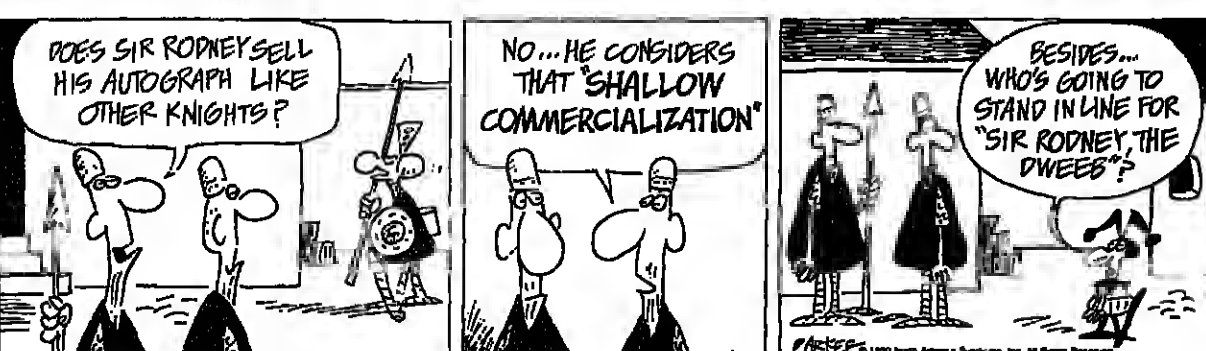
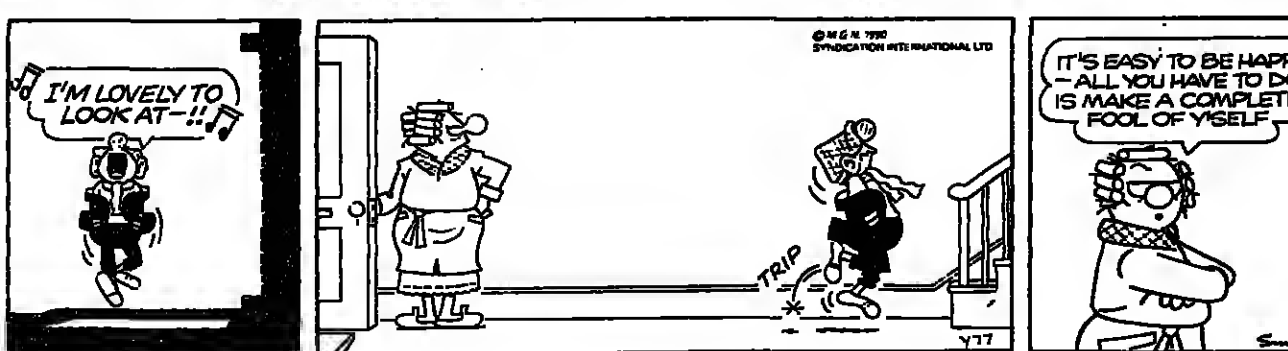
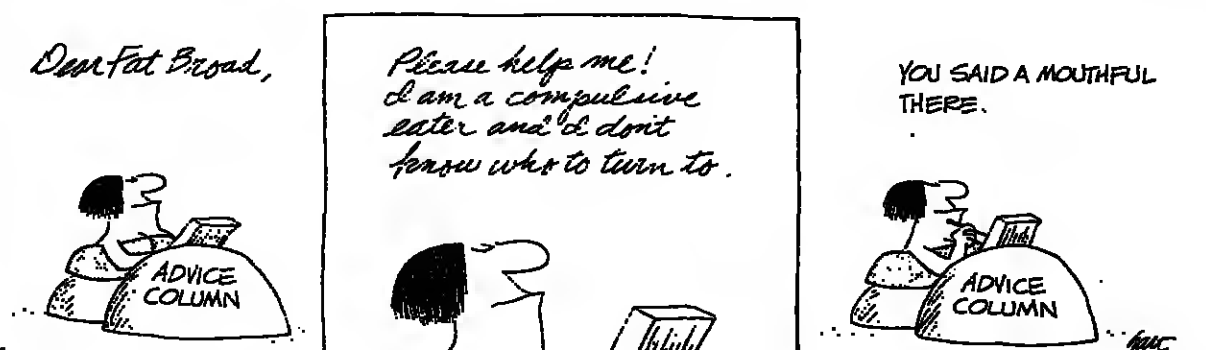
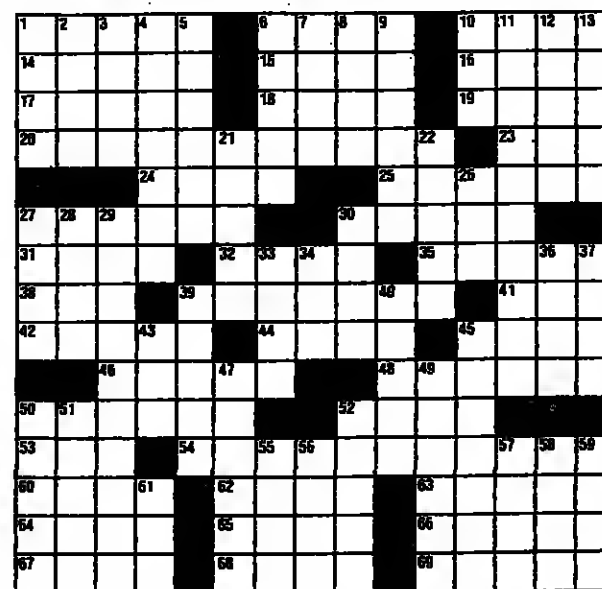
More than \$1.5 million poured

in from the public.

Natalie Wright, one of the featured singers in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love* left that show to play Bernadette, a star at 16. Her recording of the ballad, "Who Are You?" has just been released. Veteran TV figure Ernest Maxin signed on as director. "A smash hit," was his not completely unbiased verdict.

"Bernadette" opens June 20 at the 2,000 seat Dominion Theatre in London. This is not quite a miracle but it doesn't happen everyday either.

These silent witnesses to the follies of modern Europeans survived the bombs of World War II but were separated when Germany was carved between East and West in 1945

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Offspring
 - Distort
 - Address Shire
 - Weary
 - Not quite a storm
 - Stop, et see
 - Units of work
 - Tibet's location
 - State number
 - Owns
 - Minor league team
 - Selfish one
 - Gep
 - Rhode Island school
 - Skater's jump
 - Work for Perry Mason
 - Majestic
 - Drink, in Montmartre
 - State number
 - Prefix with dent or cycle
 - Houston athlete
 - Neophyte
 - Seethe
 - Musical composition
 - Humbly
 - Facade
 - Saltate
 - Arbor, Mich.
 - State number
 - Entity
 - King Kong's co-star
 - Members of a jury
 - Meal on Motokai
 - Novelist Bellow
 - Complicate
 - Inclination
 - Literary lioness
 - Lamb product
- DOWN**
- Ollie's partner
 - The Peacock constellation
 - Winglike
 - Pensive
 - Patriot Hele
 - Hot water
 - Shatner's "Star Trek" role
 - Therefore
 - Storm moving east
 - Turkish title
 - State number
 - 42
 - Pseudonym
 - Bread ingredient
 - Strict
 - Athenian
 - Meeting place for 21 Down
 - Be in debt
 - Hot rock
 - Earth turns on one
 - 1989 event for 20, 39, 54
 - Across and 11 Down
 - A Teddy
 - Stake
 - Pigpen
 - Seed cover
 - Gild the
 - Elle's pouts
 - Wanderer
 - 43 Hwy.
 - Certain European states
 - Sleep lightly
 - 49 Pass
 - 50 Spring
 - Tedium
 - Groups of distant related languages
 - Mountains between Europe and Asia
 - Greek T's
 - Certain South Americans
 - Trillion
 - Comb, form
 - Confederate
 - Famous pharaoh, for short

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

CHAIRMAN ISM SEAT
RANCE NEAT HIGH
ESTEE TARA OGRE
WHISTLERS MOTHER
SAR HEM TEE
SHOE MPS NIT
EONS ERMA TANGO
THE THREE SISTERS
HOSEA TATS ROES
SIC REL ANYA
ASS DIO RAP
THE MAN FROM UNCLE
HAVE ETUI ROLES
OVEN MENO RAVEN
SENT AINTS SHIRE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
GIVE THE DEFENSE A HIGH FIVE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K J 6

♥ K 9 7 6

♦ K Q J

♣ 10 9 6

WEST

♠ A 3

♥ J 10 8

♦ 6 4

♣ A K J 8 5 4 3

EAST

♠ 10 9 5 4 2

♥ 5

♦ 9 8 7 3 2

♣ Q 8 7

♠ A Q 4 3 2

♥ A 10 5

♦ 7 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♣ 2 ♠ 4 ♣ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

We had a leather wallet contain-

ing two decks of cards and a score-

pad. Inscribed on it, in gold, was:

"Life ain't holding the good cards."

It's playin' a bad hand well!" To-

day's East would certainly agree

with that philosophy.

With no ace or ruffing values,

North's jump to four hearts might

be considered a trifle aggressive.

However, the overall had made life

difficult, and the jump to game was

an equitable solution to a thorny

problem.

West led the king of clubs and

continued with the jack. East fol-

lowed by first following with the four

and then the three, to show an even

number in the suit, and West paused

to take stock. There were 28 high-

card points to be counted in dummy

and West's hand. In light of South's

opening bid, West realized that East

could hardly be relied upon for so

much as a jack.

Whence could the defenders col-

lect the setting trick? The trump suit

offered the only possibility. West

worked out that, if East had the five

of trumps, the contract could be

defeated. To make sure nothing got

away, West cashed the ace of spades

at trick three and then led a low club

to make sure East did not discard.

East, a little surprised to see that

dummy's ten of clubs was a poten-

tial winner, duly ruffed with the

five. Declarer was forced to over-

ruff with the queen, and mortal

damage had been inflicted. No mat-

ter what declarer did, the defenders

were assured of a trump trick for

down one.

We like West's thoughtful de-

fense. First cashing the ace of

spades and then leading a low club

made sure that if the contract could

be defeated, it would be:

**YOUR STARS**

Aries
March 21 - April 20

You should try to take your mind off work for the day. Do not think you are always right whilst others are always wrong. You should make sure you keep your expenditure within reasonable limits. Be tolerant.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You should see to it you get enough rest but there is no excuse for laziness. There is not enough money for all you would like to buy so try to choose carefully. Show a little more interest in what is of great interest to your partners. Be discreet.



Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22

If you are not feeling at your best you should try to take it a little easy today. You should try to avoid any sort of superficiality. Beware of making a promise that would well high impossible to keep. Be tactful.



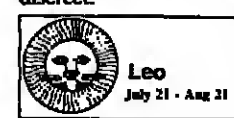
Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 19

A trend towards being self-righteous should be corrected. You should not allow your prejudices or resentments to distort your judgment. Do your best to avoid giving rise to understanding. Be fair.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Do not always think of yourself. Indeed put those close to you before you. Do not allow your thoughts and ideas to get into a rut. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 25. You would do well to spend a little time in the open air. Be respectful.



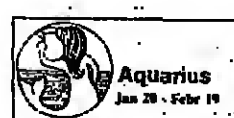
Leo
July 21 - Aug 21

You should not take too much if anything at all for granted. Instead see what you can do to rid yourself of preconceptions. You should be contented with what you have instead of always seeking more. Be generous.



Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

An offer or proposal should be considered most carefully. A tendency to act on the spur of the moment should be corrected. A little time spent tidying up will prove to be time well spent. Be considerate.



Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19

There may well be an opportunity to make amends for an omission, if so be sure to take it. You should check your calculations — calculators are only as good as the buttons you press.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You should keep your wits very much about you. Make sure you listen closely to what others are saying and curb your own voice. Ensure you take the best possible care of your health. Be cordial.



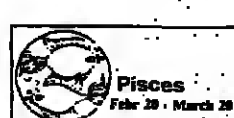
Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22

If you try to do too much all at once you will only succeed in doing nothing really well. If charm and persuasion does not help then force certainly will not do so either. Make sure your facts are not out of date. Be moderate.



Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 21

You are liable to feel a little nervous and should take every opportunity to calm yourself. Do all you can to avoid being late for an invitation. You should do your utmost to avoid doing anything that is likely to give offence. Be sensible.



Pisces
Feb 20 - March 20

You should do your best to prevent a conflict between your reason and your emotions. Do make sure you do not leave any doors or windows open when you leave home, just what burglars would like you to do.





Thriller: sexy David Forde. He has a great deal of trouble convincing girls he is not their idol, superstar Michael Jackson.



Seeing double: stunning Elaine Holgado. She bears a striking resemblance to Italian movie star Sophia Loren.



Glamorous: Peter and Julie stand in the official pose of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Cinema

Aussie seeks US recognition

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): First, it was Helen Reddy, then Olivia-Newton John and now it's Kylie Minogue — all talented singers who invaded this country from the land down under.

Minogue, however, is more than a warbler of popular songs. She is also an actress acclaimed in Australia and abroad, though not yet in the United States.

That's the reason the tiny, 21-year-old green-eyed singer visited Hollywood. She wants US audience to see her in the new Aussie movie *The Delinquents*, in which she stars as a pregnant 15-year-old runaway.

A veteran of Australian TV and movies, Minogue established herself as a dramatic actress long before she became a hot pop singer. As an 18-year-old in 1987 she was voted the most popular actress in Australia, propelled by her role in that country's No. 1 soap opera, *Neighbours*.

When she sang *Locomotion* with fellow cast members at a benefit four years ago, Kylie had no idea she would generate a singing career that would eclipse her acting.

She was approached by a local record producer who prevailed on her to fly to Loodoo to make a demo single of the song.

In July 1987, she released a single titled *The Locomotion*, a remake of Little Eva's hit in the early 1960s. It became Australia's biggest hit of the decade and No. 1 on the charts in 33 countries.

Thereafter, she cut two more singles, *I Should Be So Lucky* and *Gut To Be Certain*, both of which soared to the top of the charts in Europe and Australia.

In 1988, now 19, she had three top-10 records and her first album, *Kylie*, went gold and platinum in several countries, as did her second album, *Enjoy Yourself*.

Later in 1988 her records finally attracted attention in the United States with *Locomotion* selling more than a half-million copies.

With *The Delinquents*, the biggest film hit in her homeland, Minogue is busy with her two careers.

"I can't choose between them," she said. "I love doing both. But it is important to me to keep them separate. I don't want to sing in my pictures because people are liable to think I'm just a singer trying to capitalise on her popularity."

"Someday, I would like to work in a musical movie, but not until I establish my reputation as a dramatic actress. I would like to think people who buy my records would also like to come see my movies," she said.

"No one outside of Australia and England know that I was an actress to begin with."

"It would be a very good thing for my career to become as well-known in the United States as I am in Europe and Australia. One way to do is with a concert tour, which I plan to do," she said.

"But I can't have my whole future on whether I make it big in America. Right now I have to work as hard as anyone else to get a role in Hollywood movie because my popularity abroad doesn't mean that much."

"This is a very big and rich country. But it is possible for a performer to achieve stardom in the rest of the world without being a star in America," she said.

"Most of my income is from the sale of records, and concerts in Australia have done very well. I don't sing rock. My music is pop stuff with easy-to-listen-to lyrics."

"Mostly I sing ballads and music you can dance to. I like to think it's cool. People seem to like my singing voice."

Minogue played to crowds of 10,000-15,000 in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne and 40,000 people jammed a single concert in Tokyo. All her concerts are sold out well in advance.

Kylie speaks with a pronounced Australian accent. She is more outgoing than Reddy or Newton-John, who is one of the youngest stars in the industry.

"I was only 11 when I did my first television acting," she said. "When I was 16, I joined the cast of *Neighbours*."

"I was under a lot of pressure for a teenager. Sometimes what I do is not just a job, it's a lifestyle. But now I know how to detach myself from it."

Despite her early fame and financial success, there is a wide-eyed piquancy to Minogue that brings to mind the young Leslie Caron. There is a winning vulnerability about her that suggests she could become a major movie star playing fey, gamine roles.

That, at least, is the opinion of several motion picture makers who have been talking to her agents about mainstream Hollywood films.

The double life of sexy Sophia Loren

IT'S a tough job looking like Italian movie star Sophia Loren... as beautiful Elaine Holgado knows only too well.

For the 27-year-old stunner bears such a striking resemblance to actress Sophia that people frequently refuse to believe who she really is.

And it's hardly surprising. With her slanted cat-like eyes, the mane of dark brown hair and provocative mouth she is the spitting image of Sophia.

But now Elaine has turned her looks into her fortune and her work. She has joined a Lookalike model agency and has been busy ever since. So far as "Sophia," she has shot ads for everything from biscuits in Milan to lemon juice in Egypt... and that could be just the start.

She says: "I am very flattered that people say I look like Sophia Loren. I suppose there is quite a strong resemblance between us. Whatever way I do my hair, makeup or dress, I still look much like her. I should be grateful because Sophia is very beautiful."

"I like the way Sophia does her makeup, so I do copy her in that respect, but we don't have the same taste in clothes. But when I am playing Sophia for the agency then of course I try to dress like she does."

"At times though my looks can be very frustrating. People just don't take me seriously. They must think that I've deliberately changed my appearance to look like Sophia."

"At home though I am Elaine. Working for the agency is like acting. I take on the role of Sophia."

But like the Italian superstar she portrays, Elaine's first love is acting and she says she has a burning ambition to follow Loren's footsteps into films.

"I would love to train professionally to be an actress," Elaine says. "But it would have to be in a role totally unlike any Sophia has played. I would like to play a 90-year-old woman. That would be a real challenge."

Elaine, from Croydon, Surrey, is married to Joseph, who is Spanish. The couple are expecting their first baby in a few months. Now heavily pregnant she is having to cut down on her work.

People can't believe their eyes when they see sultry beauty Elaine Holgado shopping... for they are convinced she's film star Sophia Loren.

But she's not the only lookalike who's causing a stir and cashing in on her looks... Tracey Weeks reports.

She says: "I was told I looked like Sophia when I was 15 years old. At that age I didn't even know who Sophia Loren was."

But gradually people started pointing at me all the time especially when I went to Italy and France.

Elaine owes her dazzling looks to the Italian blood in the family on her father's side. Her grandmother, who she never met was Italian and her sister also looks like Sophia Loren.

"As I've got older though my resemblance to Sophia has got stronger," Elaine adds. "My husband gets fed up with it, especially when people come up to me and ask for my autograph."

Since Elaine has worked for the London-based Lookalike Agency, however, her feet have barely touched the ground.

She says: "Travelling is the fun part of the job and even though I don't speak Italian, just a little Spanish. It doesn't seem to matter. I'm just enjoying my life."

"But as lookalike you do tend to become typecast and that's why sometimes I like to break away and be just plain Elaine Holgado."

The Lookalike Agency, now ten years old began with Jeanette Charles, a double of the Queen of England.

The idea snowballed and now, according to agency manager Rosemary DePass they have more than 200 doubles on their books.

"Unfortunately a great deal of people on our lists don't get much work," she explains, "because we don't like to turn people away."

Their doubles range from *Star Trek's* Dr Spock, to Royals, Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable, James Dean and Humphrey Bogart.

Rosemary adds: "Some of our doubles

are very good and some poor. But we are very successful and are growing all the time. What is quite surprising is that the market for lookalikes is also growing rapidly. Doubles are in great demand all over the world."

The doubles earn between £250 and £400 for a personal appearance and for a day's job it costs the client a minimum of £500.

But being a lookalike has a slightly less glamorous side, too. There are often hours of screaming fans who will do anything to get an autograph.

Londoner David Forde, has a great deal of trouble trying to convince teenage girls he's not their idol, superstar Michael Jackson.

His likeness is so strong... despite Jackson's extensive plastic surgery... that 20-year-old David gave in gracefully. The model and film extra is now the official British Michael Jackson lookalike.

"I think Michael's great," says David. "I'm actually slightly taller than Michael and my hair is longer. And now I have to wear a little more make-up because they say Michael has lightened his skin. I even wear a little eyeliner the way he does."

David has been working for the agency for four years, since he won a national lookalike competition. Yet he can't sing.

"I mean when I used to," David explains. "But I do like dancing and I try to copy him in that respect. Now that Michael's had so much plastic surgery, some people say that I look even more like him than I did before. But I'm certainly not as wheezy as he is supposed to be. I don't think I'm like him personally wise at all."

For an April Fool's joke for BBC

television in 1985, David, accompanied by beefy bodyguards, and wearing dark glasses, tried to pretend to be the real Michael Jackson.

He recalls: "The idea was that I would meet the real Michael Jackson, who was in England on a visit, and fool the press. But it all went wrong and Michael changed his schedule. Instead of fooling the press we fooled the public."

"We ended up at the Ritz Hotel, which turned out to be quite funny because they wouldn't let me in without a tie. But the manager really mistook me for Michael and told his staff they had to let me in because I was Michael Jackson."

"I enjoy being Michael Jackson but I must admit it can get very frightening being mobbed like that. It's terrifying what lengths some fans are prepared to go to. The important thing is to be myself, as much as possible. It's easier to cope with it that way. I couldn't stand the pressure Michael must be under."

Rosemary says that the agency doesn't allow their lookalikes to get too big-headed and makes sure they keep their feet "firmly on the ground." For David Forde, she says, was "a reluctant" Michael Jackson.

David says: "I didn't want to be him at all. I wanted to get on with my career as a model. I wanted to be myself and fulfill my ambition of becoming an actor."

Peter Hugo, aged 39, is Prince Charles. And they are similar in more ways than just looks.

He explains: "We like the same things in terms of humour, we are both fans of the Goons. And we are both public school boys. We both come from fairly well disciplined and traditional backgrounds."

"I have enormous respect for the

man."

Peter has worked for the agency for six years. But for him the work came at a fortunate time, as his business was not thriving.

"I am a rolling stone. I was over-satisfied with what I had, out until now that is," he says. "This job suits my lifestyle. I enjoy it. I have never met Prince Charles, but I would like to... as a person and not as a lookalike."

Much of Peter's time is spent, naturally enough, with Princess Diana... alias lookalike Julie Woolridge. The 28-year-old "Di" joined the agency six years ago when the real Charles and Diana announced their engagement. Peter and Julie's work has taken them all over the world.

Julie says: "So many people told me how much I looked like Diana, that I approached my local newspaper. It grew from there. It can be fun being someone else, but you have to be careful not to let the character take over your life. It can become an obsession. But I suppose I am similar in the fact that we both love children. Unlike her though, I am not shy and I do like to be scruffy."

On one occasion Peter and Julie fooled a London restaurant by masquerading as the royal couple. When they had finished their meal and the bill was put on the table with the letters HRH printed on it and they walked out to the tune of God Save the Queen.

Peter adds: "I have a friend who runs a tea shop, where I have been visiting for 20 years. I know all the staff, but one day I walked in still playing my role of Prince Charles and one waitress, who knows me very well, really believed I was Charles. It was incredible."

There are other headaches to being royal lookalikes and Julie confesses she has to watch her weight for her role as Princess Diana. Peter meanwhile, reveals that he has to put special gum behind his ears to make them stick out!

Now Julie and Peter, David and Elaine are all leading double lives — and making a superstar-sized fortune at it.

Gorilla numbers grow in the mist

VOLCANO PARK, Rwanda. (Reuters): Around midway in the Virunga Mountains of Central Africa, a group of gorillas munch leaves and shoots before taking a quiet snooze in their forest of giant bamboo.

Ndume, a massive silver-backed male and head of the family, sits in the middle, pulling a bamboo branch towards his mouth with one hand.

He lost the other in a poacher's trap years ago.

Grunting, Ndume rolls his impressive bulk over to sleep and the seven others adults in this extended family follow suit in a huddle of sleek black fur.

Two babies play while the adults doze, clambering up the stems of the nearest bamboo clump, hanging precariously from a high branch before crashing riotously to the ground.

The peaceful scene reflects the security of a species once threatened with extinction.

The mist-covered Virunga Mountains, a chain of eight volcanoes reaching up to 4,500 metres (14,700 feet), straddle the borders of Rwanda, Zaire and Uganda and are the only habitat for Gorilla Beringei — the mountain gorilla.

Belgium, the former colonial power in the region, turned the Virungas into Africa's first National Park in 1925, which should have safeguarded the mountain gorillas' survival.

But constant poaching reduced their number to about 240 by the late 1970s as the animals fell victim both to the macabre search for gorilla trophies and to traps laid for other animals such as antelope.

"In the last decade the decline has been reversed and the

population is now about 310.

"Now we probably have the best protected park in Africa," said Camille Shyamba, the warden in charge of the Rwandan section of the mountains, known as the Volcano Park.

Since 1979, the Mountain Gorilla Project (MGP), funded by groups including the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society and the African Wildlife Foundation, has stepped up conservation efforts in the Volcano Park.

Anti-poaching units, equipped with guns and radios, patrol constantly, tramping for a week at a time through rain and mud.

Last year, they arrested 52 poachers and dismantled 1,563 of the wire snares or even kill gorillas unwittingly caught in them, Shyamba told Reuters.

Two veterinary doctors have a clinic just outside the park to nurse sick gorillas back to health.

They free gorillas trapped in snares, bandaging wounded limbs on the spot, and treat pneumonia, a common complaint in the damp chill, with antibiotics administered by dart.

"We can't take them out of their natural surroundings to treat them," said Dr Jean Bosco Nizeye. "If we brought them out they could be exposed to other, human diseases."

The MGP also tries to persuade local people whose tiny farms crowd up to the flimsy cane boundary that the park is good for them, a difficult task in densely-populated Rwanda.

The 125-square km (48-square km) park is already only half the size it was 25 years ago because of pressure for land.

But, MGP conservationists

explain to farmers, the park attracts 10 per cent of Rwanda's rainfall and its dense natural rain forest acts like a sponge, releasing water slowly to the surrounding farm land.

Tourists meanwhile give the gorillas one of their best insurance for survival, providing impoverished Rwanda with its largest source of foreign exchange after coffee exports.

More than 6,700 tourists visited the gorillas last year, paying 74.8 million francs (\$1 dollars) to park fees alone.

Visits have increased since the release of *Gorillas in the Mist*, a film American naturalist Dian Fossey, who spent 18 years studying gorillas until her mysterious murder in 1985.

Only six tourists a day are allowed to visit each of the four groups of gorillas "habituated" to human contact, meaning a theoretical ceiling of 8,760 visitors a year.

Still, not everyone would want to spend hundreds of dollars and trek through deep mud for several hours for the privilege of sitting in the drizzle watching a grunting gorilla.

"If a male gorilla charges," says one of the two guides at the park entrance, "drop slowly to the ground. Don't run, you'll make things worse."

With this advice, the guides start tracking the gorillas, searching for piles of chewed and crumpled foliage, footprints and droppings.

One guide is armed with a machete to slash through the bush, the other with a gun as a precaution against charging buffalo.

Friendly eyes stare back as the tourists peer.



Despite the chest beating reputation, gorillas are gentle vegetarians

Keeping Khartoum's green belt green

By Alfred Taban

KHARTOUM, Sudan (Panos): A vast swathe of trees lies to the south of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. It protects the city's seven million residents from the ravages of the annual sand and dust storms known locally as the "haboub".

The haboub is painfully familiar to the people of Khartoum and elsewhere in the country. It can cause them severe discomfort and loss of crops.

Recently, maintenance and development of the green belt has stagnated. But to Khartoum's relief, a newly created Forestry Commission announced in January that a programme of rehabilitation had begun.

The belt covers 7,035 feddans (about 40 square kilometres) and acts as a windbreak for the people, farms and crops of the area. "During haboubs," says Abdel Salaam Khalid, deputy director of the rehabilitation project, "crops and fruit trees such as oranges, lose their flowers and fruits and we suffer major production losses."

The belt performs a variety of services. Slowing down the winds, it allows gorilla breezes to blow towards the city. Thirteen kilometres long and three wide (five by 2 miles), it provides wood for construction and fuel, both in high demand in the province. It is an important recreation spot for picnic lovers and sportsfolk, while universities and other institutions of learning send students there to learn soil conservation techniques and watering methods.

Most importantly, its long-rooted mesquit trees, star of the rehabilitation projects, are very effective in blocking the encroaching desert sands from creeping towards the city.

The first trees were planted in the belt in 1964 but it was not until 1986 that a project to expand the belt was initiated. The present three-year programme, jointly financed by the Sudanese government and the Finnish International Development Agency, Finnida, involves planting new terrain, clearing the forest and uprooting old trees.

Since 1964, up to 900 feddans, an eighth of the total area, have been planted with new trees. Even though the current phase will cover 165 more feddans, some 6,000 will still remain to be rehabilitated.

Trees are uprooted in their 26th year. "We cut away the stem of the tree after eight years but leave the stub so that new stems, sometimes four or more, can grow from it," says Khalid. "After another six years, we repeat the process." The same tree is cut twice more, also at six-year intervals.

Like most institutions in Sudan, the belt has its problems. The main one is lack of water. The green belt is an irrigated forest and cannot depend on rain-water. A canal, dug many years ago, is supposed to bring in some 65,000 cubic metres (2.3 million cubic feet) of water daily from the Blue Nile.

However, for the past three years no water has flowed through it. Khalid says several private farms along the canal's course are consuming all the water.

Currently the belt gets irrigation water from the Khartoum province sewage system. "Sewage water is good for trees," says Khalid.

There are other advantages in using this water. "First," he says, "it is not wanted by anyone except us. Secondly, a lot of it is being dumped into the White Nile, polluting the river."

So everyone would benefit if all the water came into the belt. However, it is not getting all the water it requires, says Khalid — "because only one of Khartoum province's two pumps is operational".

Although the working pump's capacity is 12 million gallons (54.5 million litres) a day, it currently pumps only three million gallons (13.6 million litres) of sewage water daily — all to the green belt. The remaining nine million is dumped into the White Nile.

"If all this sewage came to us, we would not only be able to plant more feddans but there would be no pollution problems in the White Nile," Khalid says.

SNIPPETS



The picture shows: Four suspects cover their faces, afraid of publicity but not of effects of shabu on their buyers.

4 shabu suspects smoked out: Four suspected drug pushers in Quezon City were arrested in the act of selling shabu by the anti-narcotics men of the Northern Police District in separate buy-bust operations yesterday and Wednesday night.

Arrested were disc jockey Manuel Dandan, 25, of PM Aparte, 24 Matalinn St., Barangay Central, Artemus Ramos, 21, jobless, of 9 Manito St., UP Village, Juancho Laguidanum, 28, of 48 Corvette St. and Christopher Lumaug, of Fairview.

First to fall was Ramos who sold P200 worth of shabu to Pat Eugenio Buenabellas at about 7.10pm in the parking lot in front of Dandan's house. Ramos then squealed on Dandan, prompting the police to set a trap for the latter later in the night.

Dandan yielded an undetermined amount of shabu after receiving P400 in marked money from another "buyer", Pat Orlando Abengoza in the same parking lot.

Lumaug was arrested by Patrolman Rodolfo Dioncio, Jose Fernandez, Roberto Miras and Buenabellas and yielded an undetermined amount of "suspected shabu". Lumaug later led the lawmen to Laguidanum who was also found in possession of shabu in a transparent plastic bag.

"Speed up oil fund bill": President Aquino urged Congress to speed up the passage of the bill on the oil price stabilization fund (OPSF) standby funding that can provide an alternative against the impending increase sought by oil companies.

"I am for avoiding such increases at this time if possible and if not, the government will take all possible measures to minimize its adverse impact on our people," the President said.

Local oil companies except the state-owned Petron Corp. are reportedly poised to demand increase in the prices of petroleum products within the week.

He explained that it is because of the recent increase in the price of imported crude oil which averaged more than P17 per barrel.

The oil companies also noted the deterioration of the peso against the dollar as a reason for such demand.

Budget undersecretary Benjamin Diokno, when asked about the P5 billion supposed to be allocated for the OPSF, said that the money has been deposited in the treasury.

Diokno said that the executive department cannot spend the money until the bill on the OPSF standby fund is signed into law.

He explained that there is no legal basis to release the money.

Diokno stressed that no payments will be made unless the Commission on Audit approves it.

Five honest men are Cabbies of the Year: Five taxi drivers who returned to owners several thousands of pesos in cash and jewelry left behind by their passengers are this year's recipients of the Kalakbay Taxi Drivers of the Year awards given by the Department of Tourism.

Each winning driver received P10,000, a trophy and an all-expense paid trip to Singapore.

Francisco Bartolome, of Luzviminda Taxi, returned a blue coat containing a passport, airplane tickets and P60,000 to their Australian owner who left them in the cab.

Henry Uy of La Suerie Taxi, who had been driving since 1983, returned a bag containing documents and \$3,000 to an unidentified foreigner who stayed at the Manila Pavilion.

Ariston Balongoy of EMG Taxi returned some P70,000 to Robert Gifford, an Australian tourist.

Jaime Egullos of Emson Taxi returned to its owner a clutch bag containing \$7,692.55. Robert Trinidad of Belmas Taxi returned to its owner valuables and cash amounting to P100,000.

Police Captains Wenceslao Ealdama, Jr. and Guillermo Luanzon, Jr. of the Western Police District and Pfc. Samuel Turia of the Pasay City Police Department were also recognized by the DOT as the Frontliners of the Year for their outstanding performance in maintaining peace and order in the tourist areas and extending assistance to tourists.

Napolcom guard shot: Zamboanga City: A security guard of the regional director of the National Police Commission was shot to death by two men in a restaurant near the Zamboanga International Airport.

Zamboanga police identified the victim as Ireno Gomez, 33, who died from four gunshot wounds in the head, neck and the body.

Witnesses told police Gomez was waiting for a ride but went back into the restaurant when he failed to get one.

Gomez is a relative and security guard of Zamboanga Regional Director Renato Montenegro of the Napolcom.

Montenegro had expressed fear for his life after getting involved in a controversy over the replacement of a high-ranking Zamboanga police officer some months ago, an investigation said.

The witnesses said they saw two men follow Gomez and shoot him at close range with a .45.

Four rebels slain: Government soldiers backed by helicopter gunships shot dead four communist rebels in a running gunbattle in a village in Marikina, Quezon, the Constabulary reported.

Quezon provincial Constabulary commander Col Reynaldo Wycoo said the government soldiers belonging to the 234th PC Company and the 42nd Army Infantry Battalion overran a rebel camp which had 17 nipa huts.

The government group, he said, suffered only one wounded. He was identified as Reynaldo Bien, member of the Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU).

Wycoo said the identities of the slain rebels were not immediately known.

Two helicopter gunships fired rockets at the rebels, forcing them to flee toward a village in San Francisco town, the PC commander said.

Wycoo said at least 100 rebels took part in the gunbattle with the government forces.

'Frog' baby: A frog-like baby was recently born dead at the Quezon Memorial Hospital here after its head and arms were cut off during a Caesarian operation.

Hospital director Dr. Manuel Salazar, identified the mother as Dolores Magsocon, 30, of Barangay Dalahican in this city.

The baby weighing 12 pounds, had five sharp teeth, a big stomach and twisted arms.

Magsocon's aunt Mrs. Remolico de Guzman said that when Magsocon started feeling labour pains she called a midwife (thilot). While the thilot was rubbing Magsocon's stomach, the baby's head came out.

At the Quezon Memorial Hospital in downtown Lucena, while she was being attended to by Dr. Celia Goyma, Magsocon decided that the baby's head be cut off to speed up the delivery. The boy's twisted arms were also cut off during the Caesarian operation.

The freak baby was Magsocon's sixth child.

In October 1985, Rosita Valencia Orefasa, a 33-year-old fisherman's wife from Padre Burgos, Quezon, delivered at the QMH a two-headed baby boy, also stillborn.

QC sub-city assembly: Mabuhay Sub-City in Quezon City will hold a general assembly today at the QC Sports Centre on E. Rodriguez Avenue to urge the co-operation of the government and private sectors in the successful implementation of its projects.

Sub-City deputy mayor Councillor Guillermo Altuna said his projects include cleanliness, peace and order, livelihood programme and revenue collection.

Mabuhay is composed of Barangays Dona Imelda, Dona Josefa, Dona Aurora, Sto. Nino, San Isidro, Santol and Don Manuel.

Mayor Brigid R. Simon Jr. will be the guest of honour during the assembly.

Brigadier General Alexander Aguirre

The no-nonsense general



MORE than one-hundred years since the infant Philippine Republic mobilized a ragtag military of ex-Kaipunceros and peasants in its own defence under President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Emilio Aguinaldo, the tradition of citizen-soldiering is now a national profession of arms. It is a profession like no other — a brotherhood with its own code and customs, its own heroes and misfits and its own average Juan dela Cruz. It is a fraternity united by the grim vow that somewhere, someday it may go in harm's way. The significance of that vow has rarely been greater than it is today wherein lies a continuing, and some say increasing, need for brave and able men to ride to the sound of the guns.

Today, officers in the armed forces of the Philippines stand out in their respective areas of command as well as the enlisted military personnel, the officers, the mind and soul of the vast machine that is the chief guardian of the nation, make sure that their units believe in and follow their adherence to the doctrine of "civilian" supremacy over the military. This is ingrained in soldiers' minds through training and official pronouncements, which the soldiers fully believe in — in thoughts, words and deeds.

Since the People's Power Revolution in February of 1986, one AFP figure — among many — who has caught the attention of Filipino citizens is Brigadier General Alexander P. Aguirre, Commander of the Capital Region Command or Capcom, and director of the Metropolitan Police Force (MPF).

We must understand first that a career officer's favourite literary portrait is the image of a lean, taciturn, dedicated patriot who makes war sacrifices to pursue a dangerous but often thankless profession. As we will discover in the background and this interview with the no-nonsense general, Aguirre — in more ways than one — fits the image.

Alexander P. Aguirre was born on September 2, 1939, in Sta. Cruz Marinduque. He made it a point to acquire scholarships from the elementary grades up to high school in order to help his brothers and sisters continue their studies by no longer adding to the family's financial burden. After graduating at Malindang Institute in Sta. Cruz as valedictorian, the young Alexander Aguirre was interested in taking up architecture in college but veered from the idea due to indefinite financial support. Eventually, a high school PMT Commandant told him that the Philippine Military Academy offers

scholarships for those who pass the entrance examination. So, what was architecture's loss was the AFP's gain for Aguirre entered the PMA in 1957, graduating as topnotcher of his class in 1961.

As an officer in the Philippine Constabulary, he has maintained a consistent outstanding record of the public service. Aguirre was chosen as PC Company Commander of the Year. Among his awards were the Distinguished Service Star (1980 and 1983) and the Cavalier award in 1969.

Upon the day he was appointed instructor at the PMA (1967-71), Aguirre also took up law at the Baguio College Foundation, Baguio City. He graduated *Magna Cum Laude* and was one of the topnotchers when he passed the Philippines Bar in 1971. Other accomplishments of this military individual are: Master's degree in economics at UP and Ph.D. candidate (1974), Masters in National Security Administration (MNSA) at the National Defence College of the Philippines (1981), and graduate of the International Defence Management Course at the US Naval Post-graduate School, Monterey, California (1981).

Aguirre also attended seminars abroad such as the Crime Investigation Seminar in Tokyo, Japan, Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Hostage Taking at the Interpol in France and an observation tour study of the traffic and transport systems in both Australia and Singapore. With these achievements behind him, Aguirre had been assigned in various capacities of the PC, both in the field and in the staff. He was a company commander in the Visayas and Bicol region, deputy C3 at HPC and operations officer and chief of staff of PC Metrocom and Mfp. On Jan. 24, 1987, Gen. Aguirre was designated commander of the Capcom and the MPF director.

As a military professional, lawyer and economist, Gen. Aguirre has written numerous theses and papers. He is the author of two non-fiction books: *A People's Revolution of Our Time* (An Inside Story with *Palitico-Military Analysis*) in 1986 and *Readings on Counterinsurgency* (with co-writer Z. Villareal) in the following year.

This side of the general as a writer — gets most people's attention. Some say that military and law enforcement officials have political views while others think they should have no political views at all. He counters these confidently.

"What is provided by the constitution is that the military should not engage in any partisan political activity," the Capcom commander begins. "That means that during elections, you

should not be siding with any party or with any candidate. Giving political views pertains merely to saying that we are for the constitutional democracy, we are for democracy instead of being for Communism or dictatorship. We should be able to express our views in that respect. We must be able to show the people that we are here to defend democracy, the constitution and to uphold civilian supremacy over the military, which is an essence of a constitutional democracy. We must be able to strongly respond against any threat that will prejudice or endanger our political system, that is a democratic system."

The general adds that in that regard, if it's expressing political principles in defense of democracy, it's perfectly alright in the military. On the other hand, he says it's a no-no if it's for partisan political activities. "Partisan politics should be left to the politicians," he emphasizes.

Being a Brigadier General in the AFP, Aguirre freely admits that his military career has advanced his standing in society. "I'm a poor man. I came from a very humble family. I would say that it is through the military — of course, it was backed up by hard work — that we rose up to this level. But you cannot just rise up to a certain level in the military if you do not perform your job, being dedicated totally. You will be left behind, you will not get promoted."

According to Aguirre, that is one thing good about a constitutional democracy: nothing is handed to you in a silver platter, as the cliché goes. "You work hard for whatever you want to achieve. There is freedom for us to pursue our proper ambitions within the framework of the law and the values of society. In other words, we can pursue opportunities that may not be present in a totalitarian regime because you will be so constrained, controlled and managed by the political state. With democracy, when you're qualified and competent, you go up freely."

Though he may not look like the athletic type, Aguirre plays tennis in his leisure time instead of putting around the house or reading novels — the impression most people get with senior officers. "Before, I used to play badminton but now, tennis. I like the game for two reasons. First, it is a fast enough game and therefore, you will really be properly exercised physically. At the same time, you socialize with people — your contemporaries, different sectors of society with the same interest in sports."

It's a known fact that some officers gripe about their pay and their paperwork (although the higher they climb, in rank, the happier they are with their profession) but amazingly, Aguirre doesn't find himself frustrated with a schedule that often features 11-hour office stints, meetings and mandatory social activities.

"We have to accept that," says the MPF director. "That is a part of our responsibility — to meet with people, to attend to their

complaints, to be in the office to take care of documents and let decisions be made through directives. But at the same time, we have to go out, do inspections and supervise our men. It's not exactly monotonous like some people might think because we vary our activities from office to field work to social activities."

Of course, being a military personnel — either officer or enlisted — is very dangerous. As some put it, every second of a soldier's or law enforcer's life puts his neck on the line. There are death threats from criminal syndicates and the armed city partisans popularly known as "sparrows" launching a terror campaign through treacherous killings of unsuspecting lawmen in the streets of Metro Manila. Being in the AFP for almost three decades now, Aguirre has never been wounded or really endangered. Not until the December 1 coup attempt last year. He now relates to us what occurred in that one incident in Makati wherein he was wounded on the leg.

"Some of the mutineers — on the second day of the coup d'état — occupied the Makati commercial district, generally bounded by EDSA, Pasay Road, Paseo de Roxas and Buendia. We sent our men, the first contingent under Colonel Geronimo Valderama, to control the situation there. It was a composite contingent coming from Capcom, MPF, LC Laguna, PC Batangas and Camp Crame units. After organizing the situation in the area, we came in the following day. Our general strategy was to put up a surrounding force with overwhelming manpower and equipment around that area by stationing strategic corners and strong-points around the boundaries. The ambush on us happened in the afternoon — about five thirty or so. We were then deploying our troops. We were passing through Buendia with a convoy of so many vehicles, may be about fifteen. It was on the fifth vehicle. During the first burst of gunfire, two of our men in the front vehicle were killed and two were wounded. The ambush happened near the corner of Makati Avenue and Buendia. Now, General Montano's ambush happened in Ayala, thirty minutes before mine. So our ambulances were two separate incidents."

Today, Aguirre has recovered from the leg wound he sustained and the general does not walk with the slightest limp. Without knowledge of the incident, one who looks at him now would never even guess that he was wounded in action just about three months ago.

From what happened during the sixth coup try since February 1986, a lot of Filipinos think that the AFP is somewhat getting divided morally and opinion-wise. To thwart all misconceptions and rumours about this issue, Aguirre reveals the real situation in the military.

"The remnants of the Gringo Honasan and company's sympathizers are actually an isolated case out of the total military structure," he explains. "We are a very small minority of the AFP but they are the ones doing the violent acts. Therefore, that is more sensational and the people get more attracted to their activities. So, the general impression is that the military is divided. It is not. We have a small group trying to do something against the general profession activity and unity of the AFP. It appears that it is widespread but it actually not. The truth is, there

is a continuing unification of the military. For unification to exist in the military, it's common sense to think that proper leadership is mandatory — putting emphasis on unit cohesion and morale and basically our for the subordinate's welfare. Aguirre does these — and more. He truly believes in the old truism that a young soldier's fighting power depends largely on the quality of the leader. This is true in the sense that if the leader leads by example by being dedicated and being good in management, then the men will be effective soldiers or policemen. Leadership is very important; it's a major part in the men accomplishing missions."

Aguirre's style as a Capcom commander and MPF director is quite unique though some say it's pretty traditional. He raises the morale and welfare of his men, disciplines them, trains them well as a team. He maintains camaraderie and esprit de corps among Capcom and MPF personnel through his time-tested way.

"I look after my men's welfare by being more observant, being present in the field and looking over them during their activities — training and patrolling. I try to, shall we say, put them on the back after doing a good job. I'm also approachable. From time to time, I conduct dialogue with them. To top it all off, I just try to do what's expected of me as a leader. Of course, we have human faults. But as much as possible, we must be able to control these faults and try to bring out the positive aspects of our leadership."

In this Year of the Horse, Aguirre is confident that the general public has become more supportive of military law enforcement units. Realising the need for an effective means to combat peace and order problems, the Capcom/MPF adopted the so-called "total approach." In simple terms, the command laid down four major programme thrusts in order to attain its objective. They are police visibly, uncompromising enforcement of the law, improved crime solution efficiency and the continuing removal of erring personnel. They have even maximised efforts to generate and mobilise mass base support for the Capcom/MPF — camps/stations through sustained community relations.

"The support of the general public is manifested by the different civic groups that come in to this camp — Camp Bagong Diwa, here in Bicutan, Taguig — and provide services, food supplies and even entertainment, especially immediately after the liberation of Makati last December. We have students from St. Scholastica, St. Paul's and different organisations like Handing sa Bayani Foundation formed by businessmen and concerned citizens. There are also the civic groups like the Lions, the Rotary Club. The information they give us results in fast response to crime incidents, asking us to be participants in their programmes — all these are indications of public support."

More can be said about Brigadier General Alexander P. Aguirre, his mind, his profession, but a certain phrase he wrote in his book *A People's Revolution of Our Time*, can sum it all up: "Men and regimes may come and go, but the true concept of duty of the soldier will always be the same and immutable — service to his country and people."

Pagsanjan: fallen from grace

IT WILL be a long dry summer for Pagsanjan this year. This Laguna town which has become synonymous with the thrills of shooting the rapids has just been shot down by the Department of Tourism. The DOT has recently declared a "hands off" policy in the area.

Tourism Undersecretary Rafael Alunan III disclosed that the DOT would stop promoting Pagsanjan as a tourist destination starting April. Individual tourists may still go, he clarifies, "but at their own risk."

DOT's pull-out from the third most popular tourist spot in the country came at the heels of a worsening moral crisis in Pagsanjan. Despite, or probably because of, the horde of foreigners (reportedly up to 600 daily since January) freely spending at least P500 a day, its traditional small-town values have been eroded. Big city crimes stalk the streets — child prostitution, drugs, illegal vending, theft, extortion and harassment of tourists.

Meetings and dialogues between DOT and local officials, tour and lodge operators and boatmen since 1987 precisely to ward off this loss of confidence did little to improve the situation. Behind the local government's nonchalant attitude of non-co-operation is a sad story of greed and how it has plunged a once-pristine town into the murky sub-culture of pedophilia.

Ex-seminarian and Pagsanjan native Ronnie Velasco recalls that the flesh trade in their town began in the early 70s, when 18- to 24-year old lads became popular tourist escorts. By the late 70s and early 80s, the tourists had become so emboldened by the town folks' tolerance that they would mash and kiss mostly young and muscled *bangkerat* (boatmen) even in public. The escorts have also become progressively younger — from 17 to seven years old.

Parents were initially charmed

and disarmed by these foreigners who seemingly missed their families and wanted to ward off homesickness by lavishing attention and gifts on Pagsanjan kids instead. Usually surrounded by kids as they hand out money and sweets, the tall, blonde and blue-eyed strangers easily assumed the aura and respectability of Santa Claus. "They're sometimes mistaken for philanthropists because of their donations to

public schools and civic organizations and even scholarship grants to children," reveals Velasco. Most of them are also old and retired who have come to enjoy their pensions here. Some of them are successful businessmen, artists and professors so their generosity is seldom suspect, he adds. Soon enough the parents themselves became the subject of their largesse. And how could they, poor and often

unlettered, refuse the concrete comforts promised by gifts of tricycles, jeeps, coloured TV sets, VCR and cassette tapes, and even houses and lots and trips abroad?

Sighs Velasco: "Most of the pedophiles' victims are very poor and grab this one chance of improving their lot. The trouble is, they start with nothing and end up wanting everything. If they have a black and white TV set, they next crave a coloured set. If they once had a small cassette recorder, they next set their sights on a tape deck. The problem, basically, is materialism."

Undersec Alunan agrees. "Pedophilia is becoming an accepted culture," he notes in an interview. "It all boils down to value formation."

And naivete, at least at the start. It was only in '81 when Pagsanjan folks became aware that their white "brothers" had other, less salutary intentions. Then municipal secretary Valeriano Velasco reveals that he was approached by Joe Veran, a 77-year-old French journalist who briefed him on the real goings-on in the town. Believed to be a reformed pedophile himself, Veran's revelations led to a Municipal Ordinance creating the Council for the Protection of Children in Pagsanjan or CPCP, a multi-sectoral group of co-ordinating with the Department of Justice, the NBI, the Commission on Immigration and Deportation (CID) and the Council for the Welfare of the Children.

The group's income-generating projects (dispensing pigs for one, and loans for another) aim to tackle the problem at its roots, which is poverty. Its campaign however is better remembered for the boost it got when former CID Commissioner Mariam Defensor-Santiago raided the town in February 1988 and arrested 22 suspected pedophiles and deported 20 of them. Another raid in late 1988 yielded four arrests.



Paradise lost. The DOT has declared a "hands off" policy in Pagsanjan

PNB, BPI raise prime rate

The state-owned Philippine National Bank (PNB) and Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) have raised their prime lending rates by at least a whole percentage point this month, sources in the banking industry disclosed yesterday.

The prime rate hike, the sources explained, has signalled the start of a fiercer competition between government and private sector borrowers for locally available funds this year.

Starting this April, PNB's prime rate has been raised to 22 per cent, up one percentage point from the 21 per cent it charged favoured clients in March.

Similarly, BPI, the country's biggest private Universal Bank, widened its prime rates to a range of 23 to 25 per cent.

Some smaller banks are even reported to be quoting higher prime rates for borrowers — usually private sector clients — turned down or could not be accommodated by the bigger banks.

The increase in the banks' lending rates, it was also explained, was the result of the mopping up operations the Central Bank, through the flotation of Treasury bills, resort to regularly whenever it wants to check excess liquidity and, in this particular case, to tame a galloping inflation rate that it is already running at 14 per cent.

Last week, 90-day T-bill yields were quoted at 25 per cent, the barometer used by the most banks in determining their own lending rates. T-bills of longer maturities were commanding higher rates, 25.9 per cent for 182 days and 27.2 per cent for 364-day instruments.

With the proposed "sin taxes" still pending in Congress, the government is likely to increase its domestic borrowings to raise revenues for operations and for social development funding, despite statements made recently by President Aquino that she wanted the internal debt of the country reduced to a lower level.

Very few foresaw the rates at 25 per cent since it was generally believed last year that the banking system was awash with funds which were considered ample enough to satisfy both government and private sector borrowings.

New expenditures such as the P5-billion appropriation to replenish depleted Oil Price Stabilization Fund (OPSF), and the refusal to enact new tax measures, have apparently changed the credit situation.

Early this year, the PNB, in fact, forecast a 19 to 20 per cent 12-month average T-bill yield for maturities of 90 days.

هكذا من اجل

The beauty and her art

SHE is a handmaiden of the arts, to quote Charlotte Curtis. The tremendous amount of work and discipline she has put into perfecting her art or any other projects she puts her hand into, has made her one of our more successful career women even without the help of her family known for its line of successful business like real estate, theatres, condominiums, commercial buildings, etc.

Comfortable with her personality, with her artistic talents as a painter, dancer, dramatist, linguist, charity worker, Marivic Rufino is cool, strong and a sophisticated personality. That is what she exudes on the outside. But inside, Marivic is basically shy by her own admission, and has a tendency to be a loner. But she is able to adjust to the demands of her work at the Hotel Intercontinental, first as a banquet manager and at present, manager of business development and special events.

Equipped with beauty, talent, family connections, wealth, and prestige, it can be safely said, however, that even if Marivic does not have all of those mentioned above, still, powered by a quick imaginative mind and self-confidence, she can attain, with a deep-rooted conviction whatever she wants and with a great amount of success.

Marivic studied painting when she was just ten years old although it was an off and on process. After finishing her high school education in Marymount International School in Rome where she also took special arts lessons in her free time, she continued her college studies at Marymount Manhattan College in New York graduating with a degree of English literature and theatre arts. While there, she attended master classes in drama, joined women's and children's drama workshops.

Returning to the Philippines, she first worked at the Cultural Centre of the Philippines in charge of concerts to raise money for student development programmes. It was easy for her to approach sponsors for every event because of her family connections.

But aside from this, she has a certain persuasive way of making them say yes because of what their help can do towards the youth of today.

"I just appeal to their hearts and emotions whenever I approach them for their help and this really works," she said.

She also worked for a time with Vicor Recording Studio where she handled pop concerts. "I was in charge of Sharon Cuneta's first solo concert."

Then she was pirated by Hotel Intercontinental where her first job was as banquet manager.

"It was a new challenge, a different field, so I moved to the hotel world. I learned quite a lot here, learned another dimension in working. I used to produce theatre shows. I used to be a client and now I'm working here."

As banquet manager, Marivic treated functions at the hotel like a big-budgeted production, even if they're small parties only. The touch is classy, stylish in food, motif, music and colour, just the right touch that a Rufino can give.

There was that time when Intercon honoured their big accounts with an Orient Express party. There were five cities portrayed and each had the setting, costume, food and decor of the particular city. Everyone was of the opinion that Marivic outdid herself in this event just as she did in another party with a Camelot motif which was a "thank you" for top executives.

"Last year, I took up consultancy work on the side and I helped put up the celebration of Shell's 75th year. I produced two concerts, Serenata ng Shell with the help of my former colleagues at CCP. I helped put together the revival of the National Shell Art Competition which has been dormant for 17 years. I mounted the works of the former winners of the Shell Art competition from 1951 to 1971 like Joya, Ang Kio Kok, Ben Cab, Sanzo, Alcazar, to name some. It could be said that these famous artists began with Shell. I combined my job as producer, art exhibitor and artist

and jumbled them all."

From the sale of the exhibit, Intercon donated P15,000.00 to the Shell's Student Scholarship Programme and Shell matched the equivalent amount. The sum total will be the prize money for Shell's future competition which was revived last year.

"Actually, it was the combined effort of Shell's Cesar Buenaventura, Ayala's Jaime Zobel and Intercontinental," Marivic opined. To which we can add that it was mostly because of her that the competition was a success.

For her present job, Marivic handles special events, diplomatic receptions and VIPs of the hotel. Aside from handling art exhibits at the hotel, she was in charge of the golf tournament this year for the Intercon Cup for Golf, participated in by golfers from their top accounts and diplomats. She also organised the polo tournament at the Manila Polo Club twice with top teams from the polo club, aside from other VIPs participating. After each tournament, Intercon hosted cocktails for the participants.

Painting, which is her forte, also occupies a major part of Marivic's artistic talents. She paints in watercolour and does a lot of butterflies, seascapes, flowers and anything that has to do with nature because it fascinates her.

"I don't do Chinese painting anymore, but the oriental influence of my ten years of Chinese painting is still prevalent in my paintings. I'm doing the Western style but you can see that there is still an Eastern influence in them."

Last month, she had her third major joint exhibit which she started since 1987. She participated in seven group art shows before. Marivic remembers that when she painted Tali Beach (her favourite resort), she did it out of memory.

"It was an expression of mood. I painted it not as I saw it but to reflect my mood."

Included as one of the twelve loveliest faces of Manila, Marivic

has been single for 12 years, after a very unsuccessful marriage when she was very young.

"Not for lack of suitors but by personal choice. I want to grow, I want to take hold of myself as an artist, as a person, as a career woman. I wanted to do so many things I could not do when I got married. It's a growing process for me, an evolution of sorts. I'm very happy as a single person. I lived in New York for a year and a half and concentrated on drama, and dance. I also took up photography and languages. I accomplish quite a lot now because I have the freedom to do so."

Emotionally, Marivic is open-minded, although she still believes in the traditional courtship and marriage. But there are certain changes regarding trial marriages and live-ins which could be accepted.

"Values have changed and the lifestyle now is fast and very modern. We should not expect that two people can grow up

together mentally or even psychologically. Society has learned to accept things like these. Being separated, however, much so in Manila is very difficult and so is being a single parent. There are several liabilities when one is separated and becomes single again. But it's a matter of turning the negative into positive. I told myself that I'll make these all positive. Instead of moping and crying about what might have been, I decided to work hard, so I can prove to myself and to other people that it can be done. I didn't work with the family, a struggling artist because I didn't have any support from them."

"There are rumours that before long, she'll give up her single-blessedness. She laughed.

"If I choose to move to another field and be attached to someone in the future, I would then say that I had tasted practically everything within my range of talent and if at all, that would be another challenge, another chance at happiness."



Census

President Aquino answers questions from Loreto Cabral, a teacher of V. Mapa High School near Malacanang, for the 1990 national census on population and housing, which started yesterday. Aquino urged the people to co-operate with the census-takers of the National Statistics Office. She said the results of the census will be vital to the country's economic programmes.

PAGBILAO, Quezon: A PC trooper and nine New People's Army (NPA) rebels were wounded when soldiers of the 231st PC company led by Capt. Marcelo P. Garbo Jr. tried to rescue a member of the regional PC intelligence unit kidnapped at barangay Ikirin.

Garbo told Col Reynaldo G. Wyocco, Quezon PC-INP chief, that he formed a 30-man team to rescue Constable 2nd Class Nemesio Batocabe from NPA rebels.

Garbo said that while on a barangay road in Bagong Bogumbongan, he saw armed men believed to be kidnappers of Batocabe. A clash started.

The wounded rebels were taken by their companions to the Mauban-Atimonan mountains.

The wounded trooper was identified as Sgt Rodrigo Y. Cunanan.

Residents said the rebels were running with a man tied to a rope. They expressed the belief that the man was Batocabe.

Wyocco ordered his company commanders to transfer the residents to the town proper after he received reports that the NPAs will kidnap soldiers and militiamen.

CANPA, Budhavame, 56, an Indian national, of 8971 Aranga St. Makati, was charged beyond recognition. She was trapped in her bedroom.

Initial investigation, Pascual said, showed that the fire started on the second floor of Budhavame's rented unit. The owner of the apartment was identified as Lydia Gonzales who is now residing in the US.

Because of strong winds, the fire immediately spread to nearby houses, Pascual added.

Makati policemen led by Maj. Remy Macaspac, Makati police chief, cordoned off the area to prevent looting.

Meanwhile, another fire also struck the Philippine Airlines (PAL) Inflight Centre canteen on Airport Road.

No one was reported injured in the blaze, Pascual said that he had ordered an investigation in the fire to determine its cause.

MANILA: An angry Chinese ambassador and his political officer stormed out of a diplomatic forum after a Taiwanese official showed up at the same assembly.

Ambassador Wang Yingfan and Zie Shigong walked out after private organisers failed to explain the presence of William Lee, councillor of Taiwan's Pacific Economic and Cultural Centre, at a breakfast forum for diplomats.

Wang approached the guests, National Bureau of Investigation director Alfredo Lim, and Rep Jose de Venecia, and asked to be excused when Lee appeared 45 minutes after the session began.

But organiser D.Y. Caparas, a former information officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs, said he owed the official no explanation because the affair was a private one and he is no longer with the government.

SAN FERNANDO, La Union: Military authorities were assailed for their alleged failure to act on a complaint on the reported attempt of four armed men to kill a newsmen.

Eddie Almodovar, reporter-newsman of radio station DZRY, said he found who introduced themselves as La Union PC troopers threatened to kill him while he was taking breakfast on Gen. Ancheta St.

In his complaint filed before the La Union police, Almodovar said the military men, who were drunk, poked their guns at him when he refused to let them use the tricycle which he had hired to bring him to office.

The travails of Teng Puyat

SECURITIES & EXCHANGE REGISTRATION NO. 117244, issued on November 7, 1983, formalised the existence of the Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Foundation, Inc.

The incorporators/trustees of the Foundation during that heady period of the protest movement, Jose Concepcion, Jr., Jose Antonio Gonzalez, Ernesto Lichauco, Richard Lopa, Vicente Puyat, Joaquin Rocoos, Enrique Zobel and this writer.

"Where are they now?"

President Cory, to state and stress the unnecessary, is in Malacanang. JoeCon is Secretary of Trade and Industry.

Tony Gonzalez is back at Mondragon, after a colourful stint as Secretary of Tourism, and remains a firm supporter of the administration. (He is also the co-maker of the loans my wife, a company executive, has had to incur.)

Ersto Lichauco is where he has always been, quietly supporting what is decent, with all he has, and never asking anything for himself.

Baby Lopa and Titong Rocoos have gone ahead to the Promised Land.

EZ, in a sense, is also out of this world. There was a falling out during the 1985 snap elections. For a while, he was reported to be serious about certain political plans with a group that was so forgettable it has now sunk into oblivion.

Our corporate secretary, Mon Garcia, now heads the Assets Privatization Trust.

I am where I am, starting now on a sort of Farewell Tour as I prepare to bow out of the public life 319 days from the day this number hits the streets.

It was at the Ninoy Aquino Foundation where we would, from time to time, ask the plain housewife about the presidency. There had been a growing clamour in 1984 and 1985 that she consider running for the position. Always, she would dismissively laugh it off. Destiny smiled on her. I was among those who would say "Don't tighi it."

My mistake. I was totally defenseless when she asked me in turn on February 25, 1986, at dusk, to join her government. That was the last thing I had wanted. In a few hours, the Marcoses would be gone; but when she popped the question, as it were, the outcome was still uncertain. No time to say "no." She drove home the point that we were all in this together.

Anyways, we came to Teng Puyat, our dear friend, who said and stood for all the right things when we were meeting at the time.

I got into government and we drifted apart. In that, for one thing, I had to drop out of the Foundation.

Next I heard, there were critical noises coming from his direction. Fine. We had restored democracy. A liberal such as I delight in defending somebody else's right to express ideas I oppose.

During the 1987 senatorial elections, he would have been a logical administration candidate, he had the name and blond line, the background, the resources — a sure winner.

Indeed, his name would come up. I don't quite know why he was not picked. But, certainly, his anti-administration rhetoric and activities had not helped him in the search for Kahaliktan ng Pangulo.

I once asked a cousin of his, a shrewd observer of the political scene, why Teng seemed to keep shooting himself in the foot. He was a shoe-in to replace and step into the shoes of his great father, Doo Gil Puyat. His cousin was at a loss on how to explain Teng's behaviour. Saying, was all we could muster.

But that's politics.

Now, there may also be a gross misreading of the volatile political temper of the Filipino. While President Cory remains popular, our countrymen not necessarily care much anymore for some other champions of democracy during the dark days of the dictatorship.

I was shocked when I read that Teng was picked up last March 20, I understand he would be charged with illegal possession of firearms in furtherance of subversion. No bail.

I do not want to second-guess the authorities concerned. But this will precisely dramatize the problem of equal protection. If the idea is to deny him bail, the ordinary citizen would be further confused by the Enriles, Familias and the Brawners, who are well known, well-connected and have no problem raising hundreds of thousands of pesos in bail, money very, very quietly, would be treated differently. We must be evenhanded.

Teng is presumed innocent and is guaranteed all his rights under the law.

The fortunes of war and politics are sometimes beyond our ken. As then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile was to say when Nene Pimental was again arrested in 1983, when nine assumes a certain position, he must be ready to accept the consequences. MM



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Geothermal plant site explored

GONZAGA, Cagayan. At least three drill pods will be put up early next month in barangay Magrifi here to explore the site where the Mt Cagua geothermal plant will be established.

Catalino Domingo, project engineer of the Philippine National Oil company (PNOC), said some 200 local workers are now employed for the project's civil works, warehouse and administrative functions.

The plant can generate 40 megawatts, enough to supply the power needs of the entire Cagayan Valley region, according to the results of the corporation's exploitation work.

Geologic surveys on Mt Cagua have shown the presence of potential geothermal steam enough to justify a modular geothermal electric generator.

A geothermal plant is run by steam. It is an economical source of power.

Domingo said the project is part of the government's thrust to explore all possible sources of power.

He said six kilometres of road network have already been constructed to facilitate the flow of heavy equipment to be used in the drilling and construction work.

Julio Guillen, parity rights and the death penalty

JULIO GUILLÉN, threw a grenade at President Manuel A. Roxas 23 years ago, on March 10, 1947, to be precise.

He did so, according to the Supreme Court, because the intended victim "sponsored and campaigned for the approval of the so-called 'parity' measures."

Time provides perspective. The execution of Guillen — whose intolerant, violent method, of course, we hasten to add, we do not condone and indeed condemn and deplore — did not deter the growth of the nationalist movement.

Some people simply believe in certain things deeply, and fight for them, fiercely, no matter what the costs.

On the morning of the planned assassination, Guillen wrote his "last will and testament," translated from Tagalog, entitled "FOR THE SAKE OF A FREE PHILIPPINES."

"I am the only one responsible for what happened. I conceived it, I planned it, and I carried it out all by myself alone. It took me many days and nights pondering

over this act, talking to my own conscience, to my God, until I reached my conclusion. It was my duty."

"I did not expect to live long; I only had one life to spare. And had I expected to live much longer, had I had several lives to spare; I would not have hesitated either to sacrifice it for the sake of a principle which was the welfare of the people."

"Thousands have died in Bataan; many more have mourned the loss of their husbands, of their sons, and there are millions now suffering. Their deeds bore no fruits; their hopes were frustrated."

"I was told by my conscience and by my God that there was a man to be blamed for all this: he had deceived the people, he had astounded them with too many promises with no other purpose than to entice them; he even went to the extent of risking the heritage of our future generations. For these reasons he should not continue any longer. His life would mean nothing as compared with the welfare of 18

million souls. And why should I not give up my life too if only for the good of those 18 million souls."

"These are the reasons which impelled me to do what I did and I am willing to bear up the consequences of my act. It matters not if others will curse me. Time and history will show, I am sure, that I have only displayed a high degree of patriotism in the performance of my said act."

"Hurrah for a free Philippines."

"Cheers for the happiness of every Filipino home."

"May God have pity on me."

"Amen. — Julio C. Guillen"

Guillen was executed despite his seeming political motivation, and all because the state charged him with murder, and not with some political offence which could have been complexed with, and absorbed by it.

The would-be assassin was then 50, a Tondo barber, who also owned a barber shop, a hardware store and several pieces of other property.

Guillen's statements, which held the president responsible for

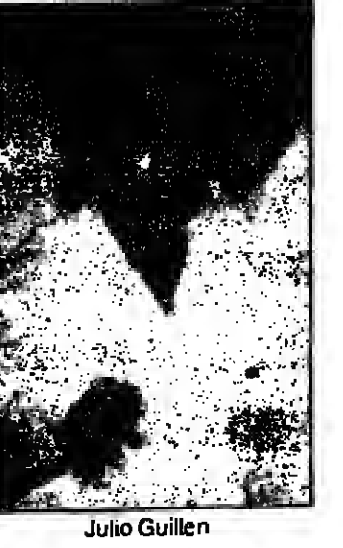
the country's economic enslavement if parity won in the plebiscite, was unsigned. It was not signed because, again according to the Supreme Court, "A copy (Exhibit B-1) of the original in Tagalog (Exhibit B), made at this request of Guillen by his nephew, was handed over to him only at about 6 o'clock in the afternoon of March 10, 1947, for which reason said Exhibit B-1 appears unsigned, because he was in a hurry for that meeting at Plaza de Miranda." As may be noted, it did not mention president Roxas' name.

Brought to the police headquarters, Guillen voluntarily confessed.

He said that he had the document prepared, as he was sure that he would be mobbed or killed by policemen and the president's bodyguards. He said calmly that he had been planning the whole thing for a long time until the opportunity came that night when President Roxas was speaking on the eve of the plebiscite on the parity rights issue.

On March 12, a case of "an

attempt on the life of the chief executive, murder and frustrated murder on five counts" was filed with the city fiscal's office against Guillen as principal and his nephew, Leonardo de Jesus (who had typed the statement) as an accessory. De Jesus was quickly dropped. (Simone Valera, 45, one of those wounded, died the day before.)



Julio Guillen

The new building would replace the old buildings housing several cottages, and would be equipped with modern amenities of a luxury hotel, Peralta said.

On top of hotel luxury rooms, the new management will put up disco houses, sports complexes, sing-along bars, and pub houses, he added.

The new owners of Pai Zen San are led by Lin Wen Chen, president and general manager.

Peralta said the new owners are eyeing thousands of Taiwanese and Japanese tourists as soon as the resort hotel has been renovated and the facilities improved.

MAKATI: A woman of Indian nationality was killed in a one hour fire which destroyed at least 14 houses worth P10 million in Makati.

Col Oscar Pascual, Southern Fire District superintendent, said that the body of

MANILA: The contract for the holding of an international exhibition in Manila called "Packprintlas Philippines '91" was signed recently in Makati by Gonzalo U. Marte, president of the Packaging Institute of the Philippines (PIP); James Chiu, president Printing Industries Association of the Philippines (PIAP); So Huk Choy, managing director, Sun Hung Int'l Services Ltd of Hong Kong; Beng Cuizon, president, Meeting and Exhibition Planners, and Antonio Dy, Ching Bing, president, Philippine Plastics Industrial Association (PIIA).

The exhibit at the Philippine International Convention Centre on Nov 9-13 called the Joint International Packaging and Processing, Printing and Graphic Arts, Plastic and Rubber Technology and Machinery

Exhibition & Conference or Packprintlas '91 offers a broad range of modern machines, said Zeno Martinez.

PASIG: Elements of the Eastern Police District (EPD) and the Constabulary Highway Patrol Group (CHPG) shot dead three suspected carnapers in a running gunbattle in Pasig, Metro Manila.

Reports reaching the PC Capital Regional Command (Capcom) identified two of the slain suspects through their identification cards as Rolando T. Lopez of Dasmariñas, Cavite, and Joselito C. Rodriguez of Sto Tomas batangas. The third was not identified.

The Capcom reports said the three men died on the spot.

Investigation showed the shootout happened on Saint Martin St. Pasig while agents of the CHPG and EPD were on routine patrol.

Operatives said they chased upon a carnaped white, Toyota car bearing license plate No. DAY-979. Lawmen called the attention of the occupants by flagging down the vehicle but this was ignored.

As the agents approached the vehicle, two of the occupants opened fire at them, the operatives said. This led to the gunbattle.

MANILA: Constabulary field commanders urged Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos to make representations with Congress for the enactment of laws that give more teeth to the counter-insurgency and anti-crime campaigns.

During a command briefing in Camp Crame, Maj. Gen. Cesar P. Nazareno and his commanders and his executive staff also recommended the upgrading of the security and defence system in an effort to protect police stations, towns and barangays from terrorist attacks and harassment by communist rebels.

Constabulary commanders in the field said that their operations in counter-insurgency drive are hamstrung by "weak and ineffective laws" dealing with the enemies of the state.

Their problems, the officers said, are compounded by the "apparent lack of co-operation and interest" of local government officials in the counter-insurgency drive and anti-crime campaigns.

Nazareno said the active participation of local government officials and civilian leaders is a "must" and, if possible, they should take the lead role in the peace and order campaign.

For his part, Ramos said that the peace and order councils (POC) should be strengthened to serve as the umbrella organisation for concerned government agencies in time of crises such as coup attempts and other man-made disasters.

The defence chief told PC commanders to harness the co-operation of local government officials, particularly barangay officials in the counter-insurgency and anti-crime efforts.

Nazareno said the ultra-rightist forces' will take advantage of the adverse perception on the capability of the government to maintain law and order.

On the other hand, communist rebels face the prospect of "political isolation" and may lose the relevance of their movement, mass appeal, and political force, Nazareno added.

KPBL moves 2nd Conference competitions opening to June 15

THE Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL) has moved its 2nd Conference basketball/volleyball competitions opening date to June 15, 1990.

This was disclosed yesterday by the KPBL Secretariat, who said that this was necessary so as not to run in conflict with the playing venue's

availability. This will also allow the KPBL Officers and members to fully participate in the forthcoming Philippines' Independence Day celebrations, which will be highlighted by a June 8 whole-day affair at the Mesilah Beach Hotel Complex.

KPBL Commissioner Edgardo Mateo added that all participating

teams should welcome this postponement since this would give them more time to organize their respective teams for the gruelling 4 months competitions. He strongly suggests to all those concerned to use this time to get fully acquainted with the Official Basketball Rules and Regulations, which were furnished to the teams by

the KPBL.

In a related development, 11 teams have so far registered for the All Filipino Men's Basketball League. They are Kaleco, Hasawi, Kuwait International Hotel, Al Ghanim Jahra, KHC-Bayan, Overland Transport Co., Trend Wave, Kellogg's Plants Services, Al Wailies, Kay &

Associates, & KPBC. Also expected to register are the teams of Nissan Al Bahrain, Capcom Al Widad, Kuwait Regency Palace, Kirby, Al Ghanim Manghat and Pizza Italia.

In the Open/expatriates Men's Basketball Invitational, six teams have so far signified their intention of participating. They are BES Engin-

ering, Gulf English School, Universal American School, RPA team, RP B team, and KSSC.

Registration is still open, and all other interested teams may come to KPBL Regular Monday meeting (8:30 pm) at the Mabuhay Restaurant/Carlton Hotel, Kuwait City. The KPBL Secretariat also added

that "Final Try-Outs" for the composition of the RP teams A and B is underway (M-W-F 6:00 pm). All individuals concerned and interested should attend.

For further KPBL details, call the commissioner, Tel: 5335207 and ask for Edgardo "Ed" Mateo.

Filcheck to hold another tourney

IN the observance of the 92nd Year of Philippine Independence, the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck), will hold a Chess Blitz Tournament on Friday, June 8. The tournament will feature five-minute chess blitz games with the top three finishers for both groups (Rated A & B) receiving a trophy and valuable gift items.

As an added attraction to the event, the club will feature the "Beat Kasparov and Win a Prize Contest" sponsored by Adawiah Universal Electronics, distributor of Kasparov chess computers in Kuwait. All Filipino chess lovers, male or female, children and adults, are invited to try their wits against a Kasparov chess computer in 5, 10 and 15 minutes blitz games. Valuable prizes await the first five lucky winners of each category.

Club president Edward Racaza also announced that nine companies have so far confirmed their participation in the forthcoming Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament, namely: Hajid-Ligaya Door-to-Door Forwarders, Magnolia Ice Cream, Kirby Building System, Al Wazzan Elevators, Al Masayel Est., JM International, Sanyo and Kuwait Public Transport Co.

The tournament is open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts, male or female. Each team shall have four regular players and two alternates. Entry forms are now available at the Filcheck headquarters at the new Kabayan Restaurant. Last day for the submission of entries is on May 25. Opening ceremonies will be held on June 8, 1990 at the Mesilah Beach Club during the Civic Parade in connection with the Pre-Independence Day Celebration being organized by the Philippine Embassy.

For more details, call Filcheck headquarters at Tel. 240-2405. Meanwhile, Filcheck bids farewell to member Hussein Ahmad, Group B champion in the First Rated Chess Tournament, held recently. Hussein left Kuwait for good to take up new employment in West Germany.

Player rankings as of May 1990:

Group A standing based on the just concluded Rated Tournament:

1. Niel Dumala; 2. Iny Vendola; 3. Danny Calasin; 4. Edwin Borjas; 5. Rene Mostreles; 6. Sammy Aurellano; 7. Rading Moje; 8. Rolly Boado; 9. Ali Macayan; 10. Thony Monreal; 11. Rey Mangornom; 12. Arnel Matutino; 13. Ariel Martinez; 14. Jess Betuen.

Group B members who did not participate or participated but did not finish in the just concluded Rated Tournament (in alphabetical order):

15. Alameda, Wahab; 16. Barrios, Chito; 17. Cortado, Mon; 18. Cortez, Rey; 19. Espeno, Pir; 20. Farrales, Ver; 21. Lagmay, Teddy; 22. Pagaduan, Romy; 23. Policarpio, Nanding; 24. Soriano, Wally; 25. Velayo, Romy.

Group B standing based on the just concluded Rated Tournament:

1. Hussain Ahmad; 2. Gil Opiana Jr; 3. Bernard de los Reyes; 4. Robert Vargas; 5. Dads Pates; 6. Fred Marasigan; 7. Mel Espinosa; 8. Rolie Mercado; 9. Jun Emtan; 10. Dion Bartolome; 11. Silver Salvador; 12. Stanley Sewit; 13. Jun Alejandro; 14. Ramon Bucay.

Group B members who did not participate or participated but did not finish in the just concluded Rated Tournament (in alphabetical order):

15. Acordien, Jigs; 16. Alfajaro, Alex; 17. Buriat, Mauro; 18. Caro, Nemo; 19. Corpuz, Vic; 20. Daiz, Robert; 21. De Nieva, Fred; 22. Espedilla, Alex; 23. Laude, Rodolfo; 24. Maca-ayong, Somie; 25. Magtanog, Francis; 26. Mercado, Jun; 27. Perez, Adrian; 28. Racaza, Edward; 29. Sanico, Ray; 30. Tima, Jhun; 31. Veloso, Rey.

Pryor 'can't see'

NEWARK, New Jersey, May 12 (AP)—Aaron Pryor can't even see the big E on an eye chart with his visually impaired left eye and should be barred from boxing. A state boxing commission doctor said yesterday.

Dr David Smith, the commission's consulting ophthalmologist, said he examined Pryor in February and that without corrective lenses the vision in the former junior welterweight champion's left eye was about 20-400.

It improved to 20-70 with corrective contact lenses that cannot be worn in the ring, Smith said in a telephone interview from his asbeston office.

Pryor has ranked the country's boxing hierarchy by securing the land for a boxing license despite his vision problems.

76ers hold off Bulls

Barkley scores 34 points, Jordan 49



Bulls' Bill Cartwright lands on Barkley. Right: 76ers' Rick Mahorn hits the court as Jordan tries to reach the ball (Reuter wirephoto)



PHILADELPHIA, May 12 (AP)—Charles Barkley scored 34 points and Philadelphia withstood a furious fourth-quarter rally to beat Chicago 118-112 last night and cut the Bulls' lead to 2-1 in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

The Bulls, who trailed by 27 points in the first half and by 20 after three quarters, rallied behind Michael Jordan to pull within three points with 1:10 left.

But Barkley made a free throw with 32 seconds remaining. Then the Bulls threw the ball out of bounds on their next possession and Barkley hit two more free throws to give the 76ers a 116-110 lead.

Jordan, who scored 24 of his 49 points in the final period, hit a basket with seven seconds left to make it 116-112. But Hersey Hawkins, who finished with 27 points, made a pair of free throws with five seconds left for the final margin.

Ron Anderson scored 17 points and Johnny Dawkins had 16 for Philadelphia, and Mike Gminski and Rick Mahorn had 10 each. Scottie Pippen scored 20 points for Chicago.

The 76ers lost the first two games at Chicago, will try to even the best-of-7 series tomorrow.

Ernie, Bebot take titles

AFTER a week of qualifying rounds, the Philippine Bowling Association in Kuwait (PBKAW) held the step-ladder finals of the Graded B bowling tournament at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes. Emerging as champions in their respective divisions were Ernie Landinto and Bebot Celeste.

Going back into the men's step-ladder finals, the first match was between Bert Papis the fifth qualifier going up against Mel Cervera, who qualified fourth. Mel advanced to the next stage by subduing Bert 198-166.

But Mel's advance was halted by third-ranked Manny Regalario who won the match 177-160. But Ernie Landinto got the better off Manny in the next game by winning the closely contested match 172-164. This victory gave Ernie a shot at Nouri Al Amiri, the top qualifier in the men's division. The first game of the two game final match was won narrowly by Nouri 177-164 but since the winner was to be determined through the total score in two games, Ernie did not lose heart but instead got off to a blazing start in the second game by dishing out a turkey (3 consecutive strikes). This display rattled Nouri as he started missing easy sparsable set.

Ernie went on to win the second via lapid score of 226-164. His final tally of 386 to Nouri's 341 gave him the title.

In the women's division step-ladder, newcomer Cathy Valdez edged out Rose Restor in the first match 113-108 but Cathy lost her touch in the next stage of the finals against Cecile Ronquillo as Cecile easily won 130-78.

After fashioning her easy victory Cecile found a stiff competition in Bebot Celeste who finally reaped the fruits of constant practice by defeating Cecile 125-117. This hard earned victory put Bebot a step away from the title as she now had to face the top qualifier Baby Milante.

In the first match Bebot wasted time in getting a wide margin as she won 197-135. She wrapped up the match by winning the second game 179-144 and with it the title.

Coming up this week is the Graded A bowling tournament. This tournament which originally was open



Winners of the women's division.



PBKA president Jimmy Tadena with winners of the men's division

only to bowlers with an average score of 170 and above will also be open to bowlers who are in the Grade B and C category.

For more information and scheduling contact Mars Balis and Danny Nabong, the tournament directors.

An emergency meeting of all officers will be held at the Mabuhay Restaurant on Sunday, May 13, at 7:30 pm. Matters to be discussed are the coming PBKAW tournaments, namely the Al Ghanim Freight Open bowling tournament and the All Filipino Summer League.

1961 Yankees gather again at reunion

ATLANTIC CITY, May 12 (AP)—The 1961 New York Yankees have aged but their memory was ageless with fans who came to a team reunion yesterday to get autographs and snap a few photographs with their heroes.

Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford and Yogi Berra were the marquee names among the 33 players and coaches attending the reunion.

Mantle, who hit 54 home runs that year in 1961, said he couldn't believe time has passed so quickly.

"It doesn't seem like it's been 10 years," said Mantle, 58, who maintained the regality of a superstar by arriving late for interviews and leaving early.

"I haven't seen some of these guys for 20 years. It's great to still be alive, really."

Berra, who turned 65 today, said he was pleased to see everybody was healthy and said that the 1961 team, which beat Cincinnati in the World Series, should still do well in this era.

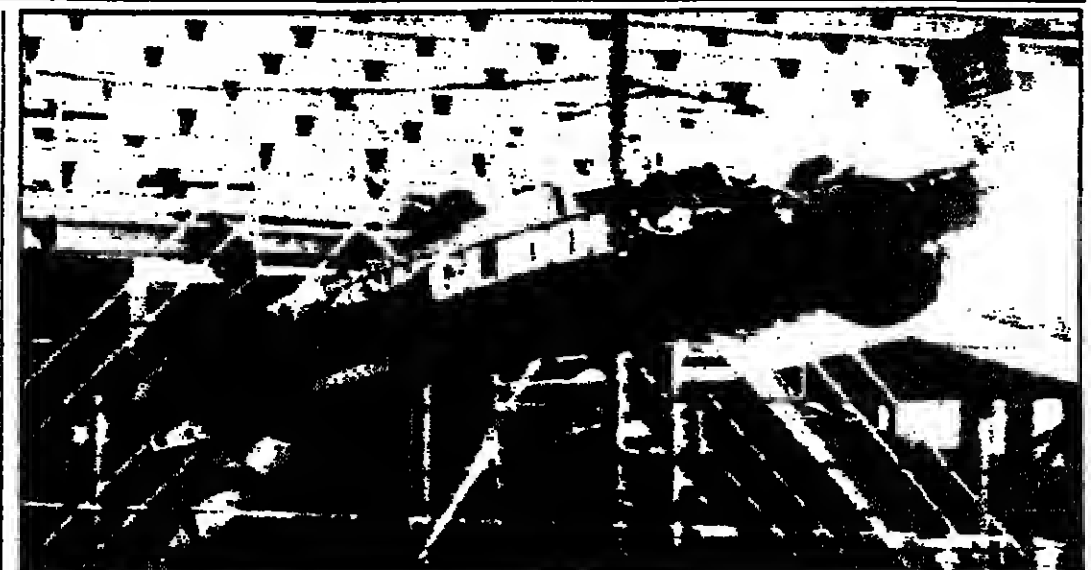
"We were damn good," said Berra, who now lives in Montclair, spending most days working on lowering his 16 handicap on the golf course.

The hall of fame catcher, known as much for throwing out malapropisms as baserunners, said "astronaut" when asked why there seemed to be less camaraderie among today's players.

"It takes the fun out of the game," Berra explained.

The Yankees traded Dave Winfield to the California Angels for pitcher Mike Witt yesterday but the deal was on hold when the power-hitting outfielder said he would not report to the Angels.

Winfield, for years one of baseball's best players, claimed that he had the right to veto the trade as 10-year veteran with at least five years' service with his club.



Crawford is airborne after crashing on the first turn. (Reuter wirephoto)

Al Unser Jr sets lap record

INDIANAPOLIS, May 12 (AP)—First, Al Unser Jr scared the Indianapolis asphalt with the fastest unofficial lap ever. Then he said the time for comfortably fast laps is over.

Unser stole the spotlight yesterday from Penske racing teammates Rick Mears and Emerson Fittipaldi, rocketing to a lap of 228.502 miles per hour (367.728 kilometers per hour) in the last hour of the final full day of practice before the start of qualifications for the May 27 Indianapolis 500.

Fittipaldi, the defending Indy 500 champion, was next at 227.181 (365.602), followed by Mears at 226.655 (364.755). Each driver exceeded the unofficial lap record of 226.231 (364.073) set last year by Mears on the Friday before the start of qualifications.

But yesterday, it was the 28-year-old Unser who surprised everyone — including himself — and became one of the co-favorites to win the pole position for the 74th Indy 500.

"This year my goal is to just sit on the front row," he said. "I've never been on the front row of an Indy-car 500-mile race and I'd like to do that someday."

He shrugged off his fast lap yesterday.

"The track was good, with cool temperatures and all that kind of stuff," Unser said. "We didn't want to top out any time during the week until Friday, then keep that edge until Saturday."

Accidents yesterday by Jim Crawford and rookies Jeff Andretti and Jeff Wood, all driving 1989 Lolas, brought the total of practice crashes this week to nine, all in older cars forced to use diffusers to reduce stability at high speeds.

Crawford's car crashed in the first turn, flying 10 feet (3m) into the air after running over a rear tyre lost in the accident. He was treated and released from Methodist Hospital after his leg X-rays turned up negative. Crawford was airborne for a distance of nearly 300 metres.

Andretti suffered a bruised left knee after his car slammed into the fourth-turn outer wall. Wood struck his first-turn outer wall with his 1989 Lola-Cosworth. He was unhurt but his car suffered right-side damage.



Mears peeks through the tarpaulin covering his Penske car. (Reuter wirephoto)

GOLF

Couples holds on to lead

DUBLIN, Ohio, May 12 (Reuter): Fred Couples, who shot an opening-round 69 in miserable conditions, finished poorly in better weather yesterday to post a 74 and see his lead shrink to one shot after two rounds of the Memorial Tournament.

Couples led by four strokes after the first round but his two-over-par round put him at one-under 143 halfway through the \$1 million tournament, only one shot better than Don Pooley, who posted a 71 to stand even par after 36 holes.

Jay Delsing was alone in third place at 145 after a 72. Following chilly and blustery conditions on Thursday, the weather was warmer and the wind gentler, although Muirfield still played to its usual toughness.

Couples stood at three under par, even for the day, until he three-putted the 17th hole for a bogey and missed the green at the 18th for another bogey.

Soviet stays ahead in cycling race

NEW YORK, May 12 (Reuter): Canadian amateur Ed Kaczmarek cruised to an easy win over Swedish amateur Michel Lafis in yesterday's 11th stage, while race leader Vladislav Bobrik of the Soviet Union conserved his energy during the Tour de Trump cycling race.

Kaczmarek, who took the lead early, won the 80-km New York City circuit race, was timed in one hour 43 minutes 41 seconds of the eight-lap course. Lafis was second in 1:43.45.

American amateur Mike McCarthy who began his cycling career by training on this same course seven years ago, overcame a flat tyre with 15 kms remaining to finish third in 1:43:53. The American lost just 22 seconds while his tyre was replaced.

Bobrik, the Soviet amateur who claimed the lead after winning the third stage one week ago, was content to finish in a large pack of riders, one minute 45 seconds after the winner.

Bobrik, 19, competing in his first international stage race, was to encounter the most difficult stage of the race today.

The 98 riders remaining from a starting field of 133 were to be tested in the 199.2-km Catskill to Albany Road race. The stage includes the steepest climb of the event, a 500-metre, 5-km ascent to Devil's Kitchen about 32 kms into the race.

"I know it's the most difficult stage of the entire race," said Bobrik. "All I can do to keep the lead is ride as hard as I can and stay out in front."

Bobrik leads Mexican Raul Alcalá by one minute 27 seconds. Ale Kvalsvoll of Norway was third, 2:10 behind, eight seconds ahead of American Ron Kiehl.

The race concludes tomorrow with the relatively flat 175.3-km Northampton to Boston road race.

Foreman, Benton, Cayton win Joe Louis Awards

NEW YORK, May 12 (UPI): Only miles from the site, the "Brown Bomber's" greatest fight played on a big screen in the Bronx yesterday to celebrate Joe Louis International Day for the Alabama sharecropper's son who became an American hero.

Louis' 1938 rematch victory over Max Baer in Yankee Stadium — a first-round KO that to America represented triumph over Hitler's Germany — was shown two days before what would have been Louis' 76th birthday. He died in 1981 of a heart attack at age 67.

To honour the longest reigning heavyweight champion in history, annual Joe Louis Awards were given to members of the boxing community. Louis held the championship from 1937 to 1949 without losing.

George Foreman, the 42-year-old crusader for a return shot at the title, was named Fighter of the Year but could not attend as he is in training for a June 16th fight against Adilson Rodrigues.

George Benton, named Trainer of the Year, sent a statement from Houston, where he is training Evander Holyfield for his June 1 bout against Seamus McDonagh.

"Every fighter wants to be a world champion, every fighter wants to be known as the best," Benton said. "So does every trainer. But every trainer has not been blessed with the things I've been blessed with. Those things are the greatest fighters in the world... when you work with guys like Rocky Lockridge, Meldrick Taylor, Evander Holyfield and Pernell Whitaker, it is hard not to look good."

"I am still not over the shock and the pride of that went with winning this year's Trainer of the Year award from the Boxing Writers Association and now this comes along. It is with humble humility that I accept this award, not just for myself and my family but for my friends... and also for all the trainers out there who deserve this award but don't have the great fighters to work with as I do, the guys



Joe Louis (right) with Frank Sinatra in 1978.

who make me look better than I am."



Foreman, aiming for a shot at the world title

Bill Cayton, the legal but spurned manager of Mike Tyson among others, was named Manager of the Year. A boxing historian and film collector, Cayton made



the tape of the Louis-Schmeling fight initially to play beside Louis' statue at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, Nev.

When asked to recall Louis, Cayton told of a fighter both blessed with natural ability and "very well-

trained" but remembered most the nature that made Louis "a great champion in the true tradition."

"A sportsman, bumble, loyal, great in every sense of the word," Cayton said. "He was a great puncher and a

Hughes, Wright score twice each

United rally to hold Palace



Wallace (left) and Palace's Alan Parden jump for the ball.

LONDON, May 12. (UPI): Crystal Palace star striker Ian Wright came off the bench to almost single-handedly win the English FA Cup for his side today, but the match was a replay after a late equaliser from Manchester United.

Wright and Hughes both scored twice in the 3-3 draw which will see both sides back at Wembley Thursday.

The bench left Mark Bright up front for Palace on his own.

Andy Gary was pushing up to give him some support and he was rewarded in the 19th minute with a free kick on the edge of the area, after being fouled by Danny Wallace.

Palace defender Gary O'Reilly was the first to reach Phil Barber's free kick and his header deflected off United's Gary Pallister and into the net.

It was only a matter of time before the Manchester Club went ahead and it was Hughes who struck in the 62nd minute.

Webb contested a ball in the penalty area and it fell loose to the Welshman, who smashed a left foot strike high into the back of the net.

With Palace being overrun, Coppell played his trump card in the 70th minute, bringing on Wright.

Aberdeen win Scottish FA Cup

GLASGOW, May 12. (Reuters): Aberdeen beat Glasgow Celtic 9-8 in a penalty shoot-out to win the Scottish FA Cup after the final at Hampden Park here today had ended in a goalless draw after extra time. Attendance: 60,493.

Wright's first goal in the 72nd minute sent the match into overtime, and his second in the 92nd minute put his side 3-2 ahead and looking likely winners.

But the final word came from Hughes in the 112th minute of the game when the Welsh international shot truly after a good through-ball from Danny Wallace.

The final, watched by an 80,000 crowd started slowly with both sides content to run the nerves out of the system.

Palace manager Steve Coppell's decision to start Wright on

The goal fired United who started to dominate, with England skipper Bryan Robson and Lee Martin both having opportunities to equalise.

Palace keeper Nigel Martyn also had to make an acrobatic save to prevent a Mark Bright own goal in the 34th minute.

But only one minute later United was back on level terms when Robson headed wide of Martyn after a cross from his midfield partner Neil Webb.

The score was 1-1 at half time and United came out in the second half looking the domin-

ant side. It was only a matter of time before the Manchester Club went ahead and it was Hughes who struck in the 62nd minute.

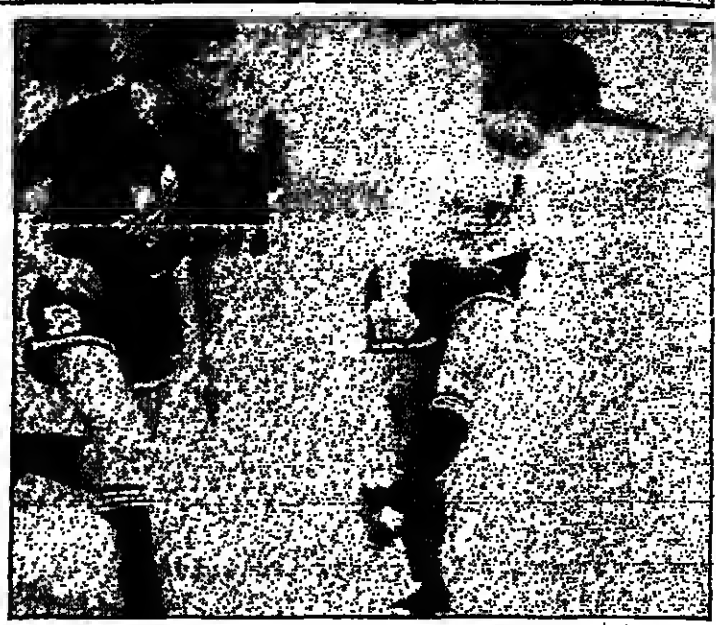
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Argentines train

Argentine World Cup captain Diego Maradona (above centre) and his team-mates in action during a training session at Trigoria Sports Centre on Friday. The Argentine squad arrived in Rome on May 9 and is staying at Trigoria, south of Rome, for training in preparation for next month's World Cup soccer finals. Right: Maradona kicks the ball past a team-mate. (Reuters wire-photo)



SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball games

NEW YORK, May 12. (Reuters): Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday:

American League		
Toronto	4	Detroit 2
Chicago WS	6	Kansas City 4
Milwaukee	6	Minnesota 3
Oakland	5	Baltimore 0
Boston	3	California 2
NY Yankees	8	Seattle 5
Texas	4	Cleveland 4

(Suspended — to be completed today)

National League		
Cincinnati	7	Chicago Cubs 5
NY Mets	0	Los Angeles 15-6
Philadelphia	10	San Francisco 6
Pittsburgh	4	Houston 3
St Louis	5	Atlanta 2
San Diego	5	Montreal 3

Title fight

SEOUL, May 12. (Reuters): Antonio Esparragoza of Venezuela retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) featherweight title for the seventh time today with a unanimous points win over South Korean Park Chan-Mok.

Italian policemen

ROME, May 12. (Reuters): Italy said it would deploy 10,000 policemen inside the country's 12 World Cup stadiums to prevent hooligans rioting during the month-long soccer tournament.

Women's volleyball

SAN LUCAR DE BARRAMEDA, Spain, May 12. (Reuters): Results in the final round of the Women's Volleyball World Championship qualifying tournament yesterday:

West Germany beat Poland 3-2 (13-15, 0-15, 15-11, 17-16, 15-6); United States beat France 3-1 (5-15, 15-3, 15-9, 15-5); Netherlands beat Yugoslavia 3-1 (15-6, 15-11, 9-15, 15-10).

Olympic Stadium

ROME, May 12. (Reuters): Fifa's World Cup committee chairman Hermann Neuberger said yesterday he was happy with the progress of building work at Rome's Olympic Stadium, venue of the World Cup final on July 8.

Soccer friendly

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 12. (Reuters): Coach Sebastiao Lazaroni has made two changes to Brazil's team for their last full friendly soccer international before the World Cup finals, against East Germany tomorrow.

\$35,000 bonus

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, May 12. (AP): Brazil's national team members will get \$35,000 each if they win the World Cup next month in Italy. A figure agreed to after players balked that the originally offered \$7,000 bonus was insufficient.

3-year contract

IPSWICH, England, May 12. (Reuters): Long-time West Ham boss John Lyall yesterday signed a three-year contract as manager of Second Division Ipswich.

Baseball agreement

HELSINKI, May 12. (Reuters): Finland and Estonia plan to revive international matches in Finnish baseball — a relative of the US variety — after a gap of more than half a century. The 'Pessapallo' associations of Finland and Estonia, which face each other just 80 kms apart across the Baltic Sea, signed a co-operation agreement yesterday.

W. German soccer

BONN, May 12. (Reuters): West German First Division soccer results today:

Fortuna	6	St Pauli	0
Eintracht F.	3	Cologne	1
Bochum	1	Karlsruhe	0
VFB Stuttgart	3	FC Homburg	0
Bayer U	0	Borussia M	0
Bayer L.	1	W. Bremen	2
Hamburg SV	1	W. Mannheim	0
Kaiserslautern	0	Nurnberg	2

Senna takes GP pole position

IMOLA, Italy, May 12. (Reuters): Ayrton Senna extended one of the most remarkable records in motor sport today when he claimed pole position for tomorrow's San Marino Grand Prix for the sixth consecutive year.

The Brazilian, under severe pressure from his McLaren team mate Austrian Gerhard Berger who had shattered the qualifying lap record early in the session, responded in typically robust style with a new record lap of the Autodromo Enzo E. Dino Ferrari.

Senna clocked one minute 23.230 seconds round the 5.040 kms circuit at an average speed of 218.025 kph to take nearly three seconds off his pole time set last year.

Berger had no reply to that and the two McLaren drivers will share the front row of the starting grid ahead of the two Williams driven by Riccardo Patrese of

Italy and Belgian Thierry Boutsen.

Patrese, on what is virtually his home town circuit, could manage only a marginal improvement on the time he set on Friday in opening qualifying.

The two Ferraris will share the third row of the grid. Briton Nigel Mansell, who on one lap dramatically cut out the chicane at acque Minerale after his braking foot became stuck between the pedals, finished fifth quickest and world champion Alain Prost of France sixth.

Senna's pole was the 44th of his career and one he admitted gave him great pleasure.

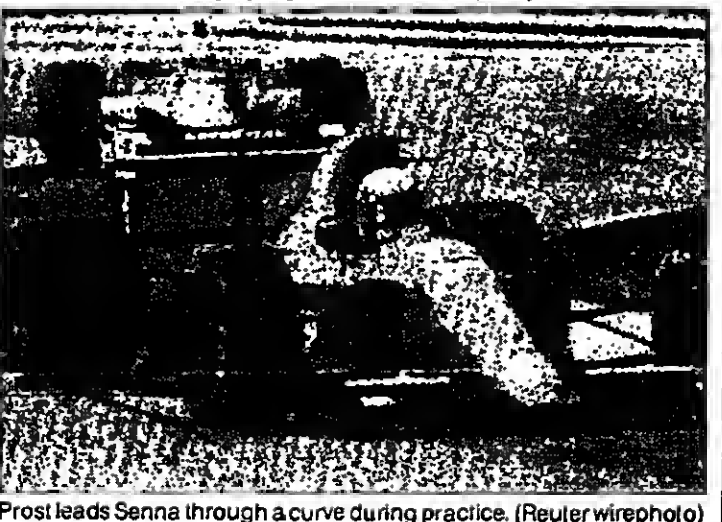
Senna, who leads the drivers' championship after winning the season-opening race in Phoenix and finishing third in Brazil, said he expected a tough race from his team mate again tomorrow.

Frenchman Jean Alesi made a bold bid to break up the dominance of the teams powered by

multi-cylindrical engines, but finally had to be content with seventh place on the grid ahead of Brazilian Nelson Piquet who has been showing signs of a revival this year with Benetton.

It was an encouraging day for

the British Lotus team for whom Derek Warwick claimed 10th place on the grid and team-mate Martin Donnelly 11th, but a highly disappointing day for the footwork Arrows team who failed to qualify either car.



Prost leads Senna through a curve during practice. (Reuters wirephoto)

Uefa defers decision on English clubs

WEMBLEY, England, May 12. (AP): European soccer officials agreed today to make no decision on English clubs' readmission to their competitions until after the World Cup, leaving England's fans on probation in Italy.

Uefa, soccer's governing body in Europe, had planned to decide the clubs' fate at its executive committee meeting in Vienna May 24.

But when its leading officials met Britain's Sports Minister, Colin Moynihan, they agreed to assess the English fans' behaviour in Italy and then make a decision.

Lennart Johansson, Uefa's president, said that

although the situation created problems for the impending draws for the Champions Cup winners and Uefa Cup competitions, he would await a report on England's World Cup fans.

"I don't think we will decide this matter until after we receive this report, so we have postponed our decision until after the World Cup," Johansson said.

Moynihan said he welcomed Uefa's move, which would give the English fans the chance to show their behaviour had improved.

"The English fans are very much on trial in the World Cup," he said.

All-female crew

SOUTHAMPTON, England, May 12. (AP): The all-female crew of the British yacht Maiden has tangled with whales, encountered icebergs and was turned completely around by a water spout, but remained in third place in its class yesterday in the Whitbread Round-the-World Race.

The 12-woman crew has faced many hazards, including 50-foot (15 metre) waves, during the race that began last September in Southampton and is expected to end next week at the English port.

Big-hitters could drive spectators away

LONDON, May 12. (AP): A subtle attempt to inject a little life into the traditionally drowsy game of cricket has unleashed a monster that seems to be out of control.

Tired of uninspiring games that no one wins, the English cricket authorities decided to give the batters a better chance against the bowlers by allowing them more time and changing the make up of the ball.

The result has been an outbreak of ultra-high scoring that have depressed the bowlers, woken the dozing spectators from their slumbers and sent the enthusiasts racing for the record books.

It also has led to accusations of tactical skulduggery.

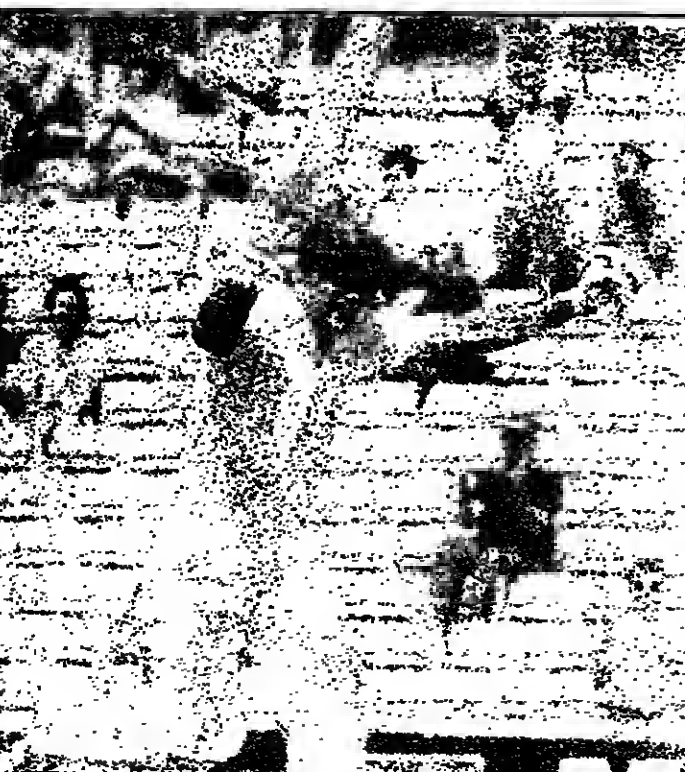
In cricket, 100 runs is a big score for a batsman and 300 is a good total for a team.

But in the first week of the county championship, one player scored 313, another then hit 291, to be eclipsed by an opponent's 366.

After one team, Surrey, scored 707, its opponent, Lancashire, amassed 863, the second highest total in championship history and the biggest this century. The aggregate score of 1,650 was the highest on record in the championship.

In the game between Essex and Leicestershire, which finished on the same day, the two teams produced 1,530 runs, the third highest in championship history, with Essex hitting 761.

The trouble was, no one won.



Ian Greig, celebrating his double century

The teams involved had taken so much time building massive scores, there was no time left to bowl each other out a second time, which is what cricket rules demand.

But battling for as long as possible means that you stop the other side from winning.

Essex secretary Peter Edwards

warned that the fans would grow tired of big scores with no result.

"The conditions have given batsmen a big advantage over bowlers," he said. "There was no chance of a result in our game and that's what the fans want to see."

"Huge totals are all very well but in the end they could drive

people away from the game."

The Surrey-Lancashire battle into a one-upmanship developed between the two captains.

When Surrey's Ian Greig took the field, half his side was out with only 275 runs scored. He hit the bowling all over the field to score a personal 291 out of his side's 707.

That inspired Lancashire to go even higher. Deciding there was nothing else to be gained, captain David Hughes instructed his team to go for 1,000 runs, never achieved in English cricket.

With Neil Fairbrother hitting 366, Lancashire batted all day Saturday and most of Monday in piling up 863.

The champagne flowed for Fairbrother but the two teams achieved little in the standings.

The big scores also caused headaches for the staff who handle the scoreboards.

They are built to store three-figure numbers only, so when Lancashire looked set to reach 1,000, staff hunted for a hook they could nail into the board to attach the extra digit.

When South African Jimmy Cook reached 199 for Somerset against Glamorgan, the electronic scoreboard blew a fuse and could not keep up with him.

He went on to score 313.

Tim Lamb is secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board, which laid down the new guidelines for improved batting surfaces and a slight alteration to the ball's center seam.

"Over the past few seasons it

was felt the balance between bat and ball had gone too far in favour of the ball," Lamb said.

"We tried to put it right this season. We may find we went too far and everything has to be reviewed."

But one element of the English cricket season seems to have the answer to this seemingly uncontrollable runscoring. The rain.

The day after Fairbrother's mammoth 366, the Lancashire left-hander hit 145 out of his side's 352 against Hampshire.

Sadly, it didn't count.

When Hampshire began its reply, heavy rain washed the players off the field. When it stopped, match officials decided there was no time to complete the game and ordered the two teams to bat again, limiting batting time to one hour.

Fairbrother's innings was scrubbed from the records because he had to bat again in the shortened rematch. As if in sympathy with Fairbrother, the rain returned again and even the second game was abandoned.

Cricket also has added its contributions to the contention that 1990 is the year of the underdog.

Yorkshire, which has won the championship more than any of the other 16 counties, was upset by the students of the combined Oxford and Cambridge universities.

And the semi-professionals of Scotland downed a Northamptonshire side which had five players who have played for their country.

"Over the past few seasons it

Becker holds off Leconte for final

HAMBURG, West Germany, May 12. (AP): West Germany's Boris Becker overcame a stubborn fight from unseeded Frenchman Henri Leconte today to reach the final of the \$1 million German Open in Hamburg.

Top seeded Becker, who has never won a clay court title in his seven-year career, needed 2 hours 17 minutes to turn back 73rd ranked Henri Leconte 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

He will face either Juan Aguilera of Spain who beat another Frenchman, Guy Forget 7-5, 7-6 (8-6).

It was Becker's third meeting with Leconte on a European clay court and his first win.

"It's definitely one of my most satisfying wins on clay," Becker said. "I would say he is one of the top six or seven players in the world on clay and to beat him here in Hamburg is very satisfying," Becker said of Leconte.

Becker jumped into the lead when he broke Leconte's serve for the first time in the match to lead 3-2 in the first set, Becker's greater power and quickness at the net broke Leconte again in the ninth game to take the first set in only 34 minutes.

But Leconte, who is rebuilding his game and his world ranking after a back injury, immediately broke Becker's serve at the start of the second set and from that moment on made Becker work for every point.

Holder Gabriela Sabatini was to face top seed Martina Navratilova in the semifinals of the Italian Open women's tennis championships today but the matches were delayed by rain.

Sabatini, playing with great strength, confidence and accuracy, beat American 14-year-old Jennifer Capriati 6-2 7-5 in a highly charged quarterfinal on centre court last night.

Navratilova, twice losing final, had earlier coasted to a 6-2 6-0 win over Spain's Conchita Martinez, the sixth seed, in just 45 minutes.

Today's opening semifinal was to put second seed Monica Seles against Canadian Helen Kelesi. Seles crushed Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland, Italian champion in 1984, 6-0 6-2 and Kelesi got past Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist 6-4 6-3.

Czechoslovak-born American Navratilova, who has been nursing a thigh strain all week, dropped out of the doubles event to which she was partnering Capriati to rest as much as possible before facing Sabatini.

Late News

2 — Monica Seles (Yugoslavia) beat 11 — Helen Kelesi (Canada) 6-1 6-2.



Boris Becker

Middlesex struggle to reach Cup quarterfinals

LONDON, May 12. (Reuters): Middlesex were shaken by a quick-fire innings from Dutchman Roland Lefebvre but survived to beat Somerset by eight runs and reach the quarterfinals of the Benson and Hedges Cup at Lord's yesterday.

Lefebvre led a late charge after Somerset faltered in pursuit of a target of 248 in their group match in the 55 overs cricket competition.

Somerset needed 51 off 37 balls with two wickets left and Lefebvre, who was discovered by team-mate Peter Roehuck when he led MCC's tour of the Netherlands last season, kept them in the hunt by hammering 37 off 37 balls.

Ten runs were wanted from the final over with the last pair together. A leg by came from the first ball but Lefebvre was run out from the next. Somerset finishing with 239 in reply to Middlesex's 247 for eight.

The home county, 183 for six at the close of Thursday's rain-interrupted play, completed their innings by plundering 64 from the last seven overs.

Middlesex, unbeaten in all competitions this season, joined Worcestershire, Glamorgan, Lancashire and Essex in the last eight. The remaining quarterfinal places were to be decided in today's matches.

Results

Group A — At Canterbury: Kent v Gloucestershire original match abandoned — rain. Second match of 13 overs also abandoned with Kent on 138 for one after 10 overs (C. Cowdrey 67 not out, T. Ward 60 not out) when rain again stopped play. Kent and Gloucestershire one point each.

Group B — At Lord's: Middlesex beat Somerset by eight runs. Middlesex 247 for eight innings closed (M. Gatting 66). Somerset 239 in 54.2 overs (C. Tavaré 93). Middlesex two points.

Group D — At Chelmsford: Essex v Leicestershire match abandoned — rain. Leicestershire 162 for six (L. Potter 46 not out). Essex and Leicestershire one point.